

Disability Now

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Social Fund found guilty

Ministers will be hard pressed not to change or abolish the Social Fund now that a major report commissioned by the Government shows that it is unfair, inadequate and fails to target many people in greatest need.

Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott fended off calls for action in March after a report from the Government's Social Security Advisory Committee called for a radical shake-up of the Fund. He said he was waiting to see the report commissioned from York University's Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU).

Meanwhile, £25 million was added to the discretionary side of the Fund, bringing its 1992/3 budget to £302 million.

The SPRU report, "the largest independent survey of social security administration ever conducted in the United Kingdom", echoes what others have been saying ever since

Continued on page 3



Holiday treat for geese and visually impaired children at the Martin Mere Wildfowl Sanctuary in Lancashire. More Out and About ideas, pages 14-15.

DAVID DRYSDALE

Voting scandal erupts

The Government is being urged to reform the proxy voting system after claims that elderly and disabled electors in Cornwall were conned out of their votes.

The allegations arise as a new report from The Spastics Society says disabled people were excluded from the general election, unable to get into polling stations, or losing their vote in the "shambles" of the postal voting system.

Fifty people in St Ives have complained that their vote was assigned to members of the local Conservative Association without their permission.

Many said they didn't

understand the proxy vote forms or thought they were applying for postal votes. When they tried to vote they were turned away and told that a Conservative official had voted in their place.

In four cases, the "voters" were dead.

Police are now investigating and a report has gone to the Crown Prosecution Service.

The proxies were used in the April general election and in the Hayle/Gwithian ward of Penwith District Council.

Although the Tories won the St Ives seat in the general election by 1,645 votes, Tory councillor Gillian Powell won the

local election by just nine votes.

When Sybil Ivey, a wheelchair user from Hayle applied for a postal vote she was told she had already been given a proxy one. "I felt outraged and humiliated."

And when her mother, who is blind, went to the polling station she was told that her vote had already been cast.

The same happened to Elizabeth Ellis, a former Labour Mayoress of Droylsden in Greater Manchester.

Most of the complaints came from people in residential and nursing homes which were canvassed by Gillian Powell.

Continued on page 7

'Mad Cow Disease': parents sue

Parents of children who died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), a human form of Mad Cow Disease, after they were injected with contaminated human growth hormone, are planning to sue the Government.

Six families have applied for legal aid to mount a group action after the Government's chief medical officer, Dr Kenneth Calman, rejected their plea for a compensation fund.

Conservative MP Emma Nicholson has asked Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley to launch an investigation into

how the hormone became contaminated.

Nineteen hundred children in the UK were given human growth hormone between 1959 and 1985. When one died in 1985, doctors switched to a synthetic form, which carries no risk of infection.

Seven people have now died and one has developed CJD, which causes dementia, loss of balance, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, incontinence, convulsions and death.

The families believe the Department of Health was negligent in supplying the hor-

mone, which is extracted from the pituitary glands of corpses, and in failing to warn parents of the risks.

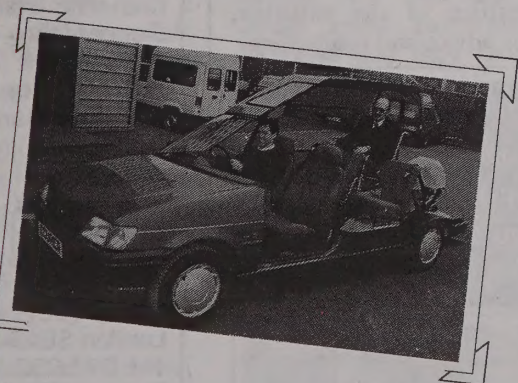
They say the Department kept the cause of the first death secret and agreed only last year to send a letter to all hormone recipients.

David Body, a solicitor acting for the parents, said: "We want an agreed compensation fund for the relatives of those who suffer from the condition now or in the future. We also want a commission of inquiry to get to the bottom of what

Continued on page 2

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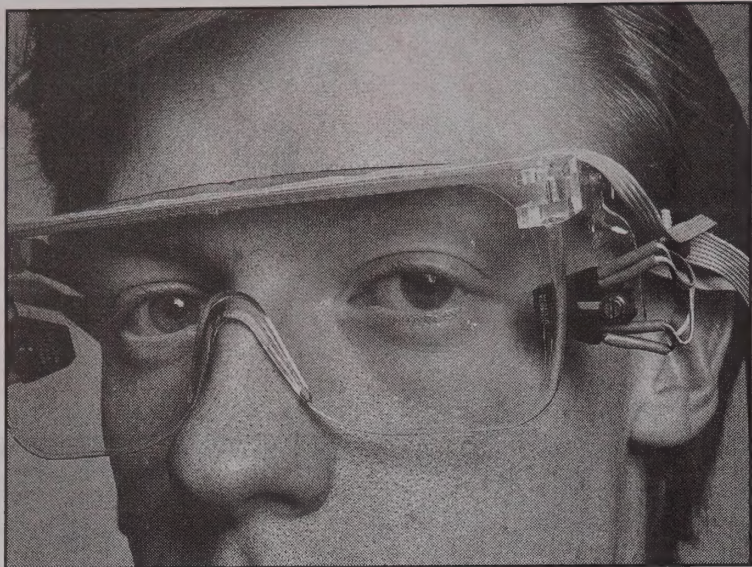
No more cash for the TECs

Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs), whose responsibilities include training people with special needs, are to get no extra money this year.

Speaking at the annual conference of TEC board members in Birmingham, Secretary of State for Employment Gillian Shephard said they might have to deliver state training schemes on a lower budget. "Indeed, our Exchequer resources could be less."

There would be a move towards performance-related funding and a greater flexibility in how TECs spend their money. And TECs must improve their performance in administering the youth training schemes and the employment training programmes for unemployed adults.

Reg Wood, assistant chief executive of Lincolnshire TEC, said: "We were disappointed that there is to be no extra funding for people with special needs, but we were encouraged that Mrs Shephard recognised the financial problems TECs face."



Inventor Brad Boyes of Sleights, North Yorkshire, will be taking his eye-controlled automatic wheelchair to represent Britain at the EC Contest for Young Scientists in Seville in September. Mr Boyes, 18, whose brother Gregory is disabled, can operate the chair using special spectacles which turn blinks into commands to go left, right, etc.

DAVID MANSELL

Support staff cut

Wandsworth council in London is to axe 23 jobs from its integrated support service which provides help to pupils with special needs.

The decision was made by the Conservative council's education committee last month and means the number of full-time teachers in the service will be cut from 116 to 93 in September.

Furious parents and teachers have accused the council, which is facing a £6 million overspend in its education budget, of failing in its legal duties to make adequate provision for special needs children.

Julia Alterman, secretary of

the Wandsworth Teachers Association said: "The cuts are a disaster. The council has got the service into an unbelievable mess."

Diana Simpson of Parents in Partnership, a charity which supports families of children with special needs, called the decision "a disgrace".

A council spokesman said Wandsworth - which has no poll tax - was reorganising its budget following a two year review.

"There will be fewer teachers, but they will be better trained. Our sole aim is to provide a better service," he maintained.

Disabled people get consumer champion

Car makers must pay more attention to elderly and disabled drivers' needs, says the first report from a new campaigning force for disabled consumers.

The "Ability" programme comes from the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs, a sister organisation of the Consumers' Association, publishers of *Which?*

Its first report in the July issue of *Which?* says some

adaptations to cars for disabled motorists have been "crudely added" to standard cars, taking away in-built safety features.

Over half the 643 motorists in the survey who use adapted cars had vehicles with push/pull hand controls. Most were mounted on the steering column and in a severe crash could cause serious leg injuries.

30 adapted cars were tested and 1,449 members of disabled motorists' organisations com-

pleted a questionnaire.

The findings will be taken up with the Department of Transport and the car industry.

Insurance and parking are also covered. And Ability is planning investigations into transport, communication aids, kitchen appliances and battery chargers for wheelchairs.

RICA research director David Yelding said: "There are many products for disabled people on the market but few

of them have been put through *Which?* type tests. As a result, they can be at best unsuited to the user's needs and at worst downright useless. And where products have been tested, information about them is often directed not at the users but at others making decisions on their behalf."

For more information send an SAE to RICA, 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DF.

Parents sue

Continued from page 1

has happened."

Tam Fry, founder of the Child Growth Foundation, whose eldest daughter had the hormone as a child, said the Department of Health left the

collection of pituitary glands entirely to the discretion of mortuary staff and did not issue any guidelines or directives until 1981.

"The dangers of CJD were recognised by the early '70s and guidelines should have been introduced much earlier,"

said Mr Fry.

Terry and Maureen Newman, from Coulsden, Surrey, are planning to take legal action against the Government. Their 20-year-old son Terry died of CJD in 1990.

Don Hefferon, from Cambridge, whose son Saul died in 1988, commented: "I am very angry that the Department of Health kept the causes of my son's death under wraps for so many years. I have decided against suing but will provide all the help I can to families that do."

A spokeswoman from the

Department of Health told *DN*: "An ethics committee decided in 1986 not to inform patients of the risk because at that time CJD had only been confirmed in one patient in the UK."

"Any legal action would be defended on the grounds that, as regards clinical factors, at the time it was administered the treatment conformed with the information then available about good clinical practice."

She added that a local doctor will be writing to people not yet notified of the situation, offering advice and counselling.

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NHS ticked off

Disabled people are being kept in unnecessary discomfort due to NHS delay and inaction, says a new report.

The National Audit Office (NAO), an official Government watchdog, looked at health services for physically disabled people aged 16-64.

Although the Health Department and health authorities had made "great efforts" to improve services, gaps remained.

Between 70,000 and 100,000 wheelchair users were at risk of developing pressure sores. The National Consumer Council estimates that it costs £20,000 per person to treat sores caused by incorrect seating, whereas a special cushion costs £35 to £350. Yet few health authori-

ties have a real policy to prevent pressure sores.

The Department has also estimated that up to 70 per cent of the 250,000 people who are incontinent could be helped. Yet only one of the three regional health authorities visited - South West Thames - had taken any action.

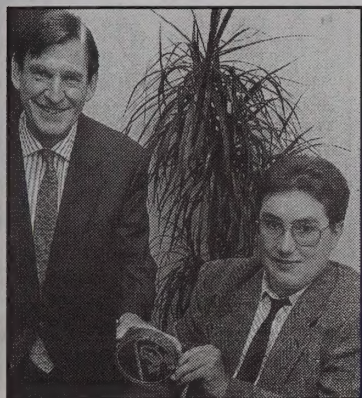
Five of the 30 centres supplying wheelchairs met the waiting time targets (set by the former Disablement Services Authority) of five days for non-powered chairs and 16 days for powered ones. Averages were 15 days and 46 days respectively.

The report also identifies gaps in brain-injury rehabilitation. The Government is trying to close these by giving £1 million a year over the next three years to develop 12 centres of good practice around England.

Services could be improved "within available resources" by paying closer attention to disabled people's needs, placing greater emphasis on rehabilitation and the reduction of pressure sores and incontinence, setting objectives and monitoring performance.

The NAO took evidence from 11 regional and district health authorities, 50 district health authorities, 20 family health services, and 40 GPs. Disabled people, local authorities and voluntary groups were also questioned.

Health Services for Physically Disabled Adults, £6.40, HMSO, tel: 071-873 9090.



John Bye, 24, from Corringham, Essex, (right) receives the 1992 Prince's Youth Business Trust's Copisarow Award, worth £1,500, from chief executive John Pervin. The award goes to a "disabled, aspiring entrepreneur". John is setting up his own desk top publishing company at home.

Social Fund found guilty

continued from page 1

1988, when single payments to people with "exceptional needs" were replaced by discretionary payments - grants or interest-free loans - from a cash limited Social Fund.

Decisions about who gets a grant or loan, and how much, vary from one DSS office to another, depending on budget and priorities: "No apparent patterns were discernible in the decisions made."

Over half the awards were less than had been asked for, leaving nearly one-fifth of recipients to find extra money from other sources.

Of those who received loans, almost 70 per cent said that having to repay out of regular benefits did not leave them with enough money to live on.

On targetting those in most need, the report says "...we cannot show that those who got awards were in greater general need than those who did not; nor can we conclude that the Social Fund is meeting its objective 'to concentrate attention and help on those applicants facing greatest difficulties in managing on their income.'"

It ends: "The challenge for the future is to continue the search for a realistic, manage-

able and fundable policy which will meet the needs of vulnerable people in a timely, efficient and just manner."

Commenting in his annual report on the Social Fund (1991-2), just released, Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley says: "In the past year, both the amount and the number of Social Fund payments have increased and they have been delivered faster than ever before."

Nicholas Scott does not think the SPRU report undermines the fundamental principles behind the Fund.

But Lorna Reith, director of Disability Alliance, a federation of 200 disability organisations, said: "The Government cannot pretend any longer that it is unaware of the Social Fund disaster. Hard facts appear to make no impression whatsoever on Government policy-making. We're left with the conclusion that the Government is more interested in saving money and saving face than it is with the needs of real people."

SPRU reports: Evaluating the Social Fund, £22, and Working the Social Fund, £9. Annual Report, Social Fund 1991-2, £9.75. Annual Report of the Social Fund Commissioner 1991-2, £7.20. All from HMSO.



Members of Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard (DaRT) Users Association called on Transport Secretary John MacGregor, demanding more money for door-to-door transport services, accessible public transport, and EC laws to make all new buses and trains accessible. TIM RUSSELL

No right to consultation

Three elderly residents have lost a legal battle to keep their residential homes open.

Nellie Johns, Nellie Baker and Jean Ruxton challenged Devon county council's decision to close Torybrook, Ingle-side and Kinraig homes in the High Court last month saying they had not been consulted.

But Mr Justice Popplewell rejected their application for a judicial review, ruling that people adversely affected by council decisions have no common law right to consultation.

He said that democratically elected local councillors represent their constituents' views and it would cause "administrative chaos" if, before a decision, those adversely affected had to be consulted.

The residents plan an appeal and will also write to Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley.

Kath Hill, chairman of the Torybrook League of Friends, said: "We are not giving up. We will keep on fighting."

Elderly residents need contracts

The Consumers' Association (CA) is calling for the introduction of a two-way contract between residents and their local authority homes.

It has found that thousands of elderly people have no written statement of their legal rights, in spite of often paying up to £300 a week. They could have their fees raised or face eviction at seven days' notice.

The Association fears that in 1993, when local authorities set up contracts with residential and nursing homes, individual residents may be "marginalised".

CA policy paper: Contracting for Residential Care, free, tel: 071-486 5544.

Fight against 50p ride

Disabled people in Leicester who are being charged 50p a day for travelling to their day centre are fighting back.

Leicestershire's social services department introduced the charge for ambulance travel in June to help reduce its £100,000 budget deficit. Only pensioners are exempt.

Angry users of the city's Douglas Bader day centre have written letters of complaint to the council and the Prime Minister. They will present a 400-signature petition to the director of social services.

Centre user Michael Gilhooey, said: "This charge is outrageously unfair. The coun-

cil have picked on us because they think we are an easy target and won't complain. Some disabled people have already stopped going to the centre and others are refusing to pay."

Trevor Brown, Leicestershire's senior assistant director of resources and planning, said: "We have introduced this nominal charge because the council has problems with its finances. The only other alternative was to cut services."

"We feel 50p is reasonable, especially as many of the centre's users can now claim the Disability Living Allowance. Anyone who is unable to pay can appeal."

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Special needs in chaos

Parents' fears that their children's special education is falling victim to bureaucratic delay, indecision, and under-funding were confirmed in an official report in June.

The Government is promising reform.

A joint report by the Audit Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools, says some local education authorities (LEAs) are taking over three years to issue statements of special needs, contrary to the Government's guidelines of six months. Such delays made the assessment process "virtually worthless".

Around 168,000 - 2 per cent of all pupils - have statements of special educational need under the 1981 Education Act. The Act gave LEAs a duty to identify and assess pupils with the most serious needs and provide them with the help they required.

In the main, delays were caused by the way the system is administered by LEAs, said the report. But they were only one symptom of the service's "serious deficiencies".

Because there is no clear definition of "special needs" there are wide variations between and

even within LEAs on statementing. Some LEAs were four times more likely to issue a statement than others.

When statements were issued, they were so vague that parents could not enforce them. "According to many LEAs this vagueness is deliberate because statements can lead to open-



Schools minister Eric Forth

ended financial commitments which LEAs, faced with finite budgets, may be unable to meet," the report acknowledged.

Campaigning worked: "LEAs admitted that factors which had no bearing on the level of need of a child were influential in the decision to issue a statement. The most significant factors were the level of determination of the school or parent and whether the par-

ent was represented by a lawyer or voluntary organisation."

Although the trend was to move pupils from special to mainstream schools, money was not going with them. If it had, mainstream ones would have had an extra £53 million.

The report looked at provision in 12 LEAs in England and Wales and 77 schools. A further 12 LEAs were visited, and meetings held with voluntary groups and 160 parents.

The report steers clear of direct calls for more money. Instead, Bob Chilton, a director of the Audit Commission, said: "Until central government introduces clear criteria to identify which children need extra help and puts in place more rigorous systems to ensure that existing resources are being used effectively, it will not be possible to judge the adequacy of local or national resources in this area."

Other recommendations include the setting down of statutory time limits for assessments. If LEAs fail to meet them, parents can have their child assessed elsewhere and make the LEA pay for it.

LEAs and schools should be held to account for their per-

formance with special needs pupils, says the report.

And the Government should consider offering "incentives" for schools to meet the needs of the least-able pupils.

Details are now emerging of the Government reforms promised in June (DN, July).

Independent Special Educational Needs Tribunals are to be set up to resolve disputes between parents and local authorities. At the moment, parents who want to appeal must do so to a panel dominated by LEA representatives.

Schools minister Eric Forth told the Commons in July that a "blanket six-month time scale" on the statementing process would be unworkable. A more flexible series of time scales was envisaged.

A consultation paper - *Access to the System* - is now out.

Getting in on the Act, Audit Commission/HMI, £8.50, Tel: 071-873 9090. Consultation paper will be sent to organisations with a special needs interest. Alternatively, write to Caroline O'Shea, Schools Branch 2, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

Gissa job ...

Leicester West Labour MP Grenville Janner has been calling Government departments to account for their employment (or lack of it) of disabled people. These are some of the revelations he has wrought through the medium of written answers (percentage of registered disabled employees listed on the right - target is Government quota of 3 per cent of workforce):

EMPLOYMENT	32
FOREIGN OFFICE	
(Overseas Development Administration)	19
SOCIAL SECURITY	19
WALES	16
HEALTH	15
ENVIRONMENT	15
N. IRELAND	15
SCOTLAND	14
TRANSPORT	13
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD	13
TREASURY	1
TRADE AND INDUSTRY	1
DEFENCE	0.9
HOME OFFICE	0.4
FOREIGN OFFICE (Diplomatic Wing)	0.4
NATIONAL HERITAGE	
No figures available yet.	

Closing date for submissions is 25 September.

MPs jostle for position in parliamentary take-your-pick

The ballot for Private Members Bills was drawn in June.

Although the chances of the bills surviving the parliamentary assault course are generally slim, a lot depends on who is sponsoring the Bill from which

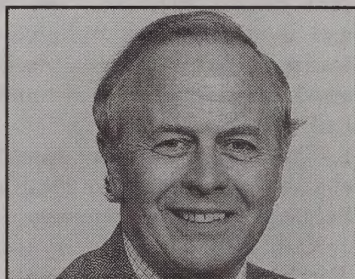
party and what it is about. A Tory with a small but practical idea stands a much better chance than an opposition MP out to make major changes.

And the higher up the list of the 20 chosen members you

are, the better your chances of getting parliamentary time.

Here are the main Bills with a disability interest (second reading dates in brackets).

In second place came Mal-



Sir John Hannam

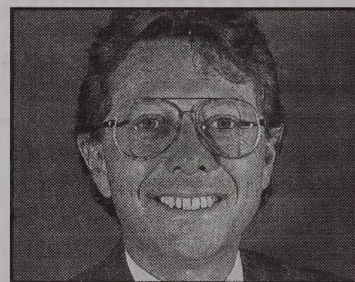
colm Moss, Tory MP for Cambridgeshire NE. His Osteopaths Bill seeks to regulate osteopaths and set professional standards. (15 January)

Harry Barnes' Representation of the People (Amend-

ment) Bill was drawn sixth. The Labour member for Derbyshire NE's Bill has a clause calling for improved access at polling stations. (12 February)

Enabling disabled people to become paid driving instructors is the aim of Sir John Hannam's Road Traffic (Driving Instruction by Disabled Persons) Bill, drawn ninth.

Anyone who wants to become an instructor has to pass the Approved Driving Instructors Register's tests. Two of these are done in cars with manual rather than automatic transmission, barring some disabled drivers. Sir John's Bill would create a special category of instructor qualified only to instruct in automatic cars. Only disabled people could apply, but once



Dr Roger Berry

qualified they can teach anyone. (11 December)

Dr Roger Berry's Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill came 19th. The new Labour MP for Kingswood wants to amend the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (N. Ireland) Act to require councils to provide day and respite care. (5 February)

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Bill goes on

Summer in Westminster is delaying the progress of Labour MP Alf Morris's Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill.

Re-introduced into the House of Lords for the second time by Labour Peer Baroness Lockwood, the Bill had its report stage in the Lords in July. It must now wait till Parliament returns from holiday (16 July-19 October) before getting its third reading and going on to the Commons.

This is the Bill's third attempt at becoming law.

DDA

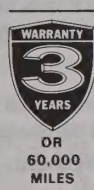
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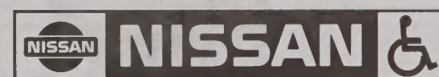


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Motability





Now you see them ... BT's prototype videophone, at present on trial, lets you see your caller.

Face up to your caller

British Telecom is launching a videophone in the autumn which will allow users to see as well as hear the person on the other end of the line.

Designed and manufactured by the British company GEC-Marconi, the phone will enable deaf people to communicate by sign language.

It has a small camera and three-inch colour screen which is mounted on a flap and can be folded away when not in use.

The phone will be priced at £399, but calls will cost the same as a normal telephone call.

A BT spokesman said: "This will be the first videophone on the market that can be used at home. It is easy to use and plugs into an ordinary telephone socket."

A spokesman for the British Deaf Association said: "We welcome the introduction of the videophone, but it has to be said that the three-inch screen is rather small and it may be difficult for some people to see."

"The machine is also rather expensive when you compare it to the cost of a minicom."

Cancer: switching on the immune system

British scientists believe they may have found a new way of helping patients fight breast cancer.

Forty women, whose tumours have returned after several years, are to be injected with synthetic fragments of a

cancer molecule. It is hoped that the treatment will stimulate patients into producing more antibodies to fight the cancer.

The trials will take place at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's breast cancer unit at Guy's hospital, London, in August.

The unit's director, Professor Robert Rubens, said: "Cancer cells often sneak through the body's defences, but if we can switch on the immune system and increase the level of anti-

bodies in the patient we might be able to tip the balance in the body's fight against cancer."

If the treatment is successful, staff at the unit hope a breast cancer vaccine can be developed.

Dr David Miles, a clinical oncologist at the unit, said: "This is a totally new approach which opens up prospects for new and perhaps more effective ways of treating breast cancer. But there is a long way to go before the treatment becomes available."

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For further information contact: Ortho-Kinetics (U.K.) Ltd., Unit 4, Planetary Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV13 3XA. Tel: 0902 866166

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Artist Tony Heaton performs his work "Shaken not Stirred" in which he demolishes a seven foot high pyramid of charity collecting cans, at the launch of the Block Telethon campaign in July (DN, June). As DN went to press, a demonstration by disabled people against the ITV charity fundraising programme was planned for 18 July. In June, the annual conference of the National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO) called on the Government to "make available appropriate levels of funding for health care provision thereby obviating the need for charitable campaigns to support essential health care provision".

TIM RUSSELL

Charities fear national lottery

Charities say they could lose around £232 million a year in donations once the national lottery begins.

Legislation to set up a lottery to benefit "good causes" including sports, the arts and charities, is due to go before Parliament in the autumn.

But charities fear that only a small proportion of the money raised will go to them and that there will be a drop in general revenue (DN, June).

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), which represents over 600 national groups, commissioned an NOP poll to estimate how much is at stake.

The poll of 1,909 adults found that five per cent of "unplanned givers" (for example, people who buy raffle tickets or give to street collectors) said their giving would reduce as a result of the lottery. Three per cent of planned

givers (for example, those who make covenants or become members) said the same. Almost a third said they did not know how the lottery would affect their giving.

Only 11 per cent thought building an Olympic stadium was a very good cause, while 85 per cent thought providing services for elderly or disabled people was a very good one.

NCVO director Judy Weleminsky said: "One of the most disturbing features of the research is that people will buy national lottery tickets in the belief that they are contributing to 'a good cause', when their money may be directed towards a project they do not see as charitable.

"A national lottery is only of benefit if it genuinely delivers new money and not merely replaces cash diverted from existing charities."

Among the safeguards the

NCVO wants are that charities should be compensated for loss of income and they should get at least half of the lottery proceeds. It also wants guarantees that lottery cash will be additional to, not discounted against, money that the voluntary sector already gets from Government and local authorities.

A new survey by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) says typical donations have risen from £1.28 in 1989/90 to £2 in 1990/91. But charities are receiving less overall because the most generous donors have been hit by the recession.

The CAF also believes the situation will be made worse by the lottery.

Individual Giving and Volunteering in Britain, £14.95, CAF Publications Department, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 2JD.

Voting scandal erupts

Continued from page 1

Maureen Connelly, the owner of the Pine Trees, said: "Mrs Powell left some forms for the residents. I signed the postal vote section in each one, but someone later Tipp-axed this out and filled in the proxy section of the form instead."

The 17 residents who signed the forms said they did not want a proxy vote.

BBC *Newsnight* in June also reported that Gillian Powell used drivers from her taxi company to persuade elderly passengers to assign proxy votes to her party before the general election.

Councillor Powell refused to comment. But in a tv interview she said voters had signed willingly and denied that votes were converted from postal to proxy.

The Spastics Society report says only 12 per cent of the 846 polling stations monitored across the country during the general election were fully accessible.

Some disabled people had to mark their ballot papers in public outside, while others were injured trying to get in.

Councils can reclaim up to 50 per cent of the cost of installing temporary ramps outside polling stations from the Treasury. *Polls Apart* calls on the Treasury to repay all of the cost.

An early day motion signed by 55 MPs last month echoes the Society's concerns.

Brian Lamb, head of campaigns at the Society, said: "Our report provides overwhelming evidence that disabled people were disenfranchised, ignored and marginalised during the general election.

It makes a mockery of the democratic process if as many as 6,000 people in each constituency have problems casting their vote."

The Society and Truro and St Austell's Liberal Democrat MP Matthew Taylor also want an overhaul of postal/proxy voting.

Among the reforms Mr Taylor wants are separate application forms for postal and proxy votes on different coloured paper, and clearer explanations of what a proxy vote is, who has been given it, and how you can cancel.

The Home Office said: "We have started a review of how the general election was conducted and this will include a look at proxy and postal voting procedures."

Polls Apart, £4.95, Campaigns, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

Community care revolution needed

A revolution is needed in the way social services operate if community care is to succeed, says a new report from the Audit Commission, the local authority watchdog.

From next April, councils will have to assess the needs of disabled and elderly people, and arrange individual care plans to meet them.

And the care element of income support for nursing and residential homes (now available to people through a means test) will be paid instead to local social services. This money can be used to pay for care in the home or nursing and residential home care.

"To discharge this new responsibility [local authorities] must re-focus their efforts on the needs of the individuals rather than on services, and everyone involved must come to terms with this change of emphasis," says the report.

But there are three major obstacles:

*the new focus on the service user rather than the service challenges the traditional cul-

ture of social services

*systems are geared to supplying services. They must now adapt to cope with assessing and commissioning services

*and agencies involved in community care - particularly health and social services - must work well together. "Experience shows that this is often not the case ..."

To overcome these obstacles, local authorities must develop strong leadership, set clear values and goals and fully involve and thoroughly train staff.

Personal Social Services: Community Revolution, £9.50, HMSO, tel: 071-873 9090.

* To what extent should care users and their families be responsible for paying for their own care, and how much are they able to do so? These are some of the points posed in *Cash or Care: A Question of Choice*, a new report by the Social Policy Research Unit.

£5, SPRU, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD.

Jo Ramsden: man charged

A man has been charged with the kidnap of Jo Ramsden, the young woman with Down's Syndrome who was found dead in March (DN, April).

Retired psychiatric nurse Michael John Fox, 48, of Dorchester, has been charged

with kidnapping Ms Ramsden, age 21. Fox, who will reappear before magistrates on 27 July, also faces other charges (not connected with Ms Ramsden) including rape, kidnap and "having intercourse with a mentally defective woman".

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Grant refused

The Government has turned down clothing workshops' request for a national development officer to make them more financially secure.

A Government-commissioned report on the workshops, which tailor-make clothes for disabled people, said they needed money urgently if they were to survive (DN, December 1991).

In 1988 there were 20 workshops. Today there are nine.

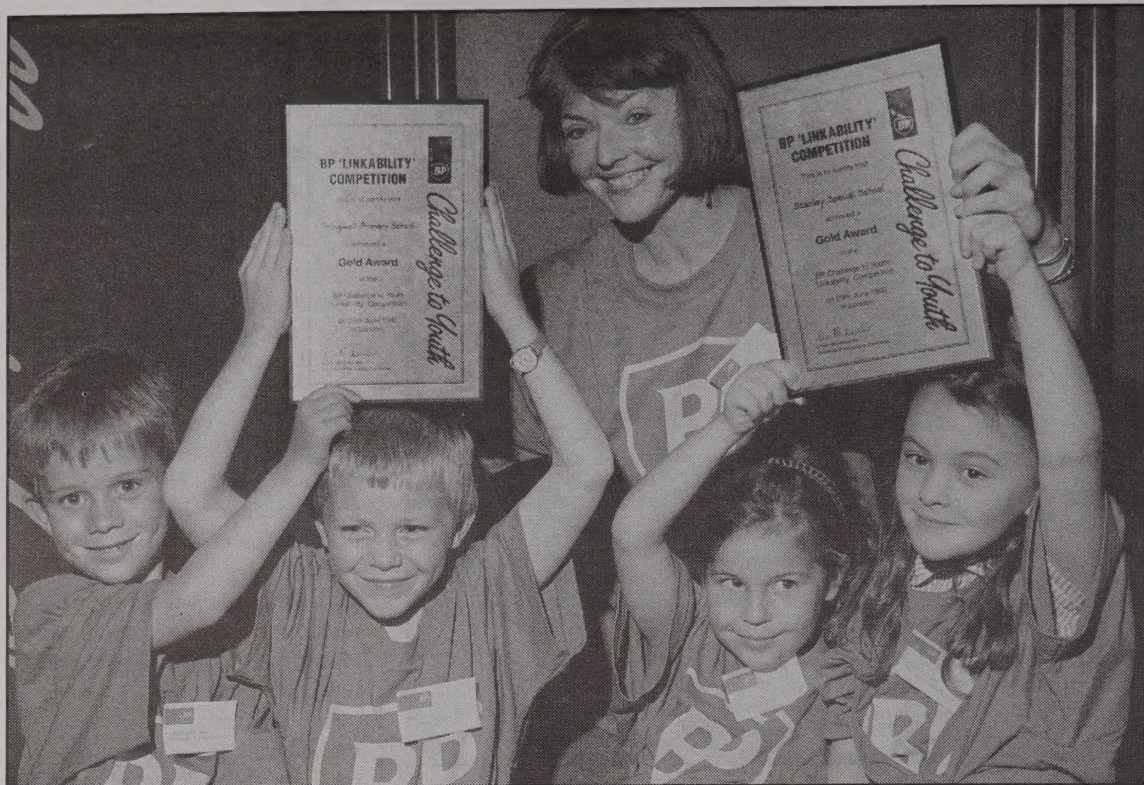
Among the report's recommendations was that the Government pay for someone to develop a countrywide network of clothing advisers and negotiate their funding with councils and other groups.

But the National Association for Clothing Workshops (NACW) request for a section 64 grant to pay for the development officer, supported by The Spastics Society and the Disabled Living Foundation, has been turned down.

The Department of Health said the number of applications for grants exceeded the money available and choices had to be made: "Unfortunately, this has meant that a number of very worthwhile projects cannot be funded and I regret that yours is one of them."

Hazel Howard of the NACW said: "We're disappointed that over two years of effort has resulted in absolutely no Government support whatsoever."

"We don't have the resources to keep going forever on this campaign."



Christopher Bogin (left), 6, Mark Phillips, 6, and head Jackie Taylor from Thingwall Primary School in the Wirral celebrate winning the £1,000 first prize in the BP Linkability competition in June with Julia Parnell, 6, and Hayley Smith, 7, from Stanley Special School. The competition, which had over 2,000 entries, challenged children of mixed abilities to work together on practical projects to help disabled members of the team. The winning idea was the "Rainbow Trim Trail", an outdoor exercise trail linking the two schools.

Disability arts find fame

Elsbeth Morrison reports

Disabled performers, arts funders and employers came to the first national conference on theatre and disability in June.

Over 90 delegates from all over the UK and Ireland met to exchange views and enjoy performances from disabled people's theatre companies.

Supported by the Arts Council and the TSB Foundation for England and Wales, the conference took place in the hardly glamorous but nevertheless reasonably accessible

Owens Park campus at Manchester University.

As one delegate put it: "People think when they have seen one show on disability they have seen them all."

"The wide variety of entertainment this weekend - from cabaret by the hilarious No Excuses and the anarchic fun of Heart n' Soul to experimental theatre from New Breed - showed that the subject of disability has many areas still to be explored."

Among the conference reso-

lutions was a call for more access to training for disabled people interested in a theatre career.

It was also resolved that work done by disabled people should be assessed by someone in their peer group. For example, performances which use sign language are often judged by people who have no understanding of the language.

A report with recommendations for the future is now being prepared and will be available at the end of the year.

Business gets its act together

Big businesses have joined up to tackle discrimination against people with HIV or Aids.

Companies act!, the business charter on HIV/Aids, is run by the National Aids Trust. Signatories include Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury, the Midland and National Westminster banks and Body Shop.

To join, companies must have or be working towards Aids policies which do not discriminate against people with the condition. They must also complete activities to show they mean business, for example, running staff education courses.

Tel: 071-383 4246.

* Outset, the charity which provides jobs and training for disabled people, is now offering its services to people with HIV/Aids.

Free training in computer/office skills and help with job-hunting are on offer.

Outset is also running a research project on HIV/Aids and employment with the National Aids Trust.

Write to Julie Khan or Judith Hammond, Outset, Drake House, 18 Creekside, London SE8 3DZ.

Papworth Trust hits 75

The Papworth Trust, which provides jobs and accommodation for disabled people, celebrated its 75th anniversary with an exhibition, open day and conference last month.

The Trust owns much of the village of Papworth Everard in Cambridgeshire and provides integrated accommodation for around 1,000 people. Disabled

people can work in a range of jobs within the village, including printing and electronics.

Viscount Ullswater, Parliamentary Secretary of State for Employment, praised the Trust for helping disabled people to achieve their "undoubted potential".

Tel: (0480) 830341.

IN BRIEF

New research needed

Doctors are calling for new research into the causes of cerebral palsy after a study found that oxygen loss at birth is not a major cause of the condition.

The report in the *British Medical Journal* said cerebral palsy is more likely to be due to problems linked to premature birth, or the result of brain damage occurring before birth.

The study, carried out by the Western Australia Research Institute for Child Health, discovered there had been a fall in still births and neo-natal deaths between 1967 and 1985 but the proportion of children with cerebral palsy had remained steady.

Young deaf achievers

British Telecom has launched a nationwide search for young deaf people who excel in technology, sport, the arts, entertainment and education.

The winner of BT Young Deaf Achievers '92 will get £500.

There will also be an award for the employer who has given most support and encouragement to a young deaf employee.

Closing date 30 September. Nominations forms from Julia Cosby, tel: 071-721 7689.

Be-able to join clubs

Disabled people in Oswestry and outlying villages in Shropshire who wish to join non-disabled clubs, classes and societies can now get help from a new charity called Be-Able.

Funded by Shropshire Community Council, Be-Able will arrange transport, find special equipment and provide a companion if needed.

Jeff Bell of Be-Able said: "Many disabled people are hesitant and worried about joining clubs. We want to reassure them that they can do it."

Be-Able, Marianne Morris, 1 Beaconsfield Terrace, Morda, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9PE, tel: (0691) 670840.

Corrections

In our Naidex report (DN, July), we wrongly connected the Joncare System 13 Chair with Disability Care Services. Possum Controls Limited own all rights to the Joncare name and the System 13 Chair continues to be available through the Joncare division of Possum Controls Limited. Tel: (0753) 579234.

For more information on Select Hearing System's Conversor hearing aid (DN, July), write to Andrew Hall, Select Hearing Systems, PO Box 30, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 4RL.

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Big ideas for the small screen

Tim Russell reports

The BBC's new Disability Programmes Unit (DPU) was officially launched on 18 July.

The unit is unique because it makes programmes with an all-disabled production team.

Christopher Hutchins, former producer of the BBC's *One in Four* programme, and Jeremy Gibson, editor of the Community Programmes Unit, had the original idea.

"The unit was set up with the aim of getting disabled people who are often discriminated against into television and mainstream production," said Christopher Hutchins.

The team - an editor, two producers, two assistant producers and three trainees - will put out a bi-monthly topical magazine programme called *From the Edge*. Short films about people's experiences of their disability called *Feelings*, a cultish entertainment programme called *Megaton*, and an arts series called *Into The Arena* are also planned.

All DPU programmes will have teletext subtitles and be signed in British Sign Language by a deaf interpreter. Some will be audio-described for visually impaired viewers.

Editor Kerena Marchant, said she hoped the unit would start a "disability cult".

"We want to introduce an exciting new broadcasting style, with novel graphics and animation. The programmes will have strong mainstream appeal,

months, three unemployed disabled people from Europe will start an 18-month scheme to train them for tv jobs.

Mike Devenney, the unit's

Several familiar faces who worked on the BBC's *One in Four* and *Same Difference* programmes will not be involved.

Assistant producer Chris



From the Edge presenters (left to right): Mike Higgins, Allan Sutherland, Sarah Newman, Rose Shapiro, David Hevey, with Simon Barnes (front).

but will also break the stereotypical way in which disabled people have been portrayed on screen, using strong imagery and hard-hitting programmes to show disabled people as they really are."

The unit will run a training scheme, funded by the European Social Fund. Every three

access and support manager, is responsible for getting trainees placements in the BBC.

"The unit is a toe in the door and not an end in itself. We will give people the training to develop their skills."

His team of six access workers also provide staff with support, access and equipment.

Davies and producer Mark Todd have resigned. Rudi Breakwell-Boss has also left.

Chris Davies disagreed with editorial policy, saying it tended towards the medical rather than the social model of disability.

He was also unhappy with the tight deadlines. He felt that disabled people were expected

to adapt to the BBC's way of working, rather than the BBC adapting to the needs of disabled people.

Rudi Breakwell-Boss has written to senior BBC managers about stress caused by lack of managerial support and too few opportunities to work in mainstream programmes.

Kerena Marchant said: "Chris Davies only worked on two programmes and said he was resigning because he felt the pace of the job was too fast for him. He is in no position to comment on the content of the programmes because we only started working on the new series as a production team after he had left.

"As for his allegations of differences with me over editorial direction, all I can say is the DPU will reflect the disabled community worldwide.

"We will empower disabled people to become programme makers. We will cover disability and mainstream events and ensure disabled people are correctly portrayed in the BBC."

She said the contracts of the three men had expired at the end of last year but were extended so that they could finish their current projects.

"Four posts are now being advertised and it is hoped that they will apply and compete for these posts alongside other disabled programme makers."

See Profile, page 20

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Shrewsbury take British cricket title

Shrewsbury are the new British disabled cricket champions.

The winning team beat Dawley by 34 runs in a one-sided final at Coventry in June.

Man of the match Terry Lee was the outstanding batsman and bowler.

First Lee punished Dawley with the bat, scoring 35 out of Shrewsbury's match winning total of 57 for one.

Then the talented all-

rounder picked up the ball and wrecked Dawley with a devastating spell of fast bowling. Lee took four vital wickets as Dawley collapsed to 23 all out.

Shrewsbury, who were presented with the BSS trophy, reached the final by beating Oswestry and Derwen College.

Twelve teams entered the competition, which was organised by the British Association for Cricketers with Disabilities.

Manchester will stage Games

Manchester has been chosen to stage the 1995 World Transplant Games.

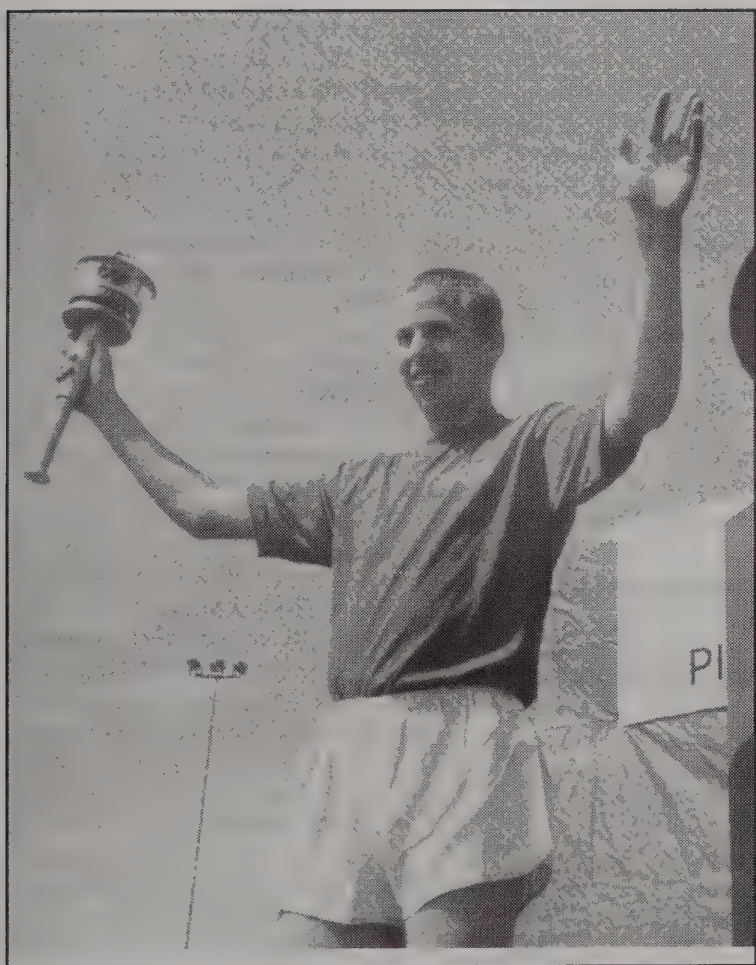
Over 2,000 athletes from 40 countries are expected to attend.

Organisers are seeking a

Royal patron for the event and have formed a charity to raise £100,000.

Among the sports featured will be athletics, swimming, badminton, tennis, squash, cycling and golf.

No losers at London Special Olympics



Alan Lewis of Brent opens the Games

JON MIKOL

More than 2,000 athletes with learning difficulties entered the third London Special Olympic Games at Willesden Sports Centre in June.

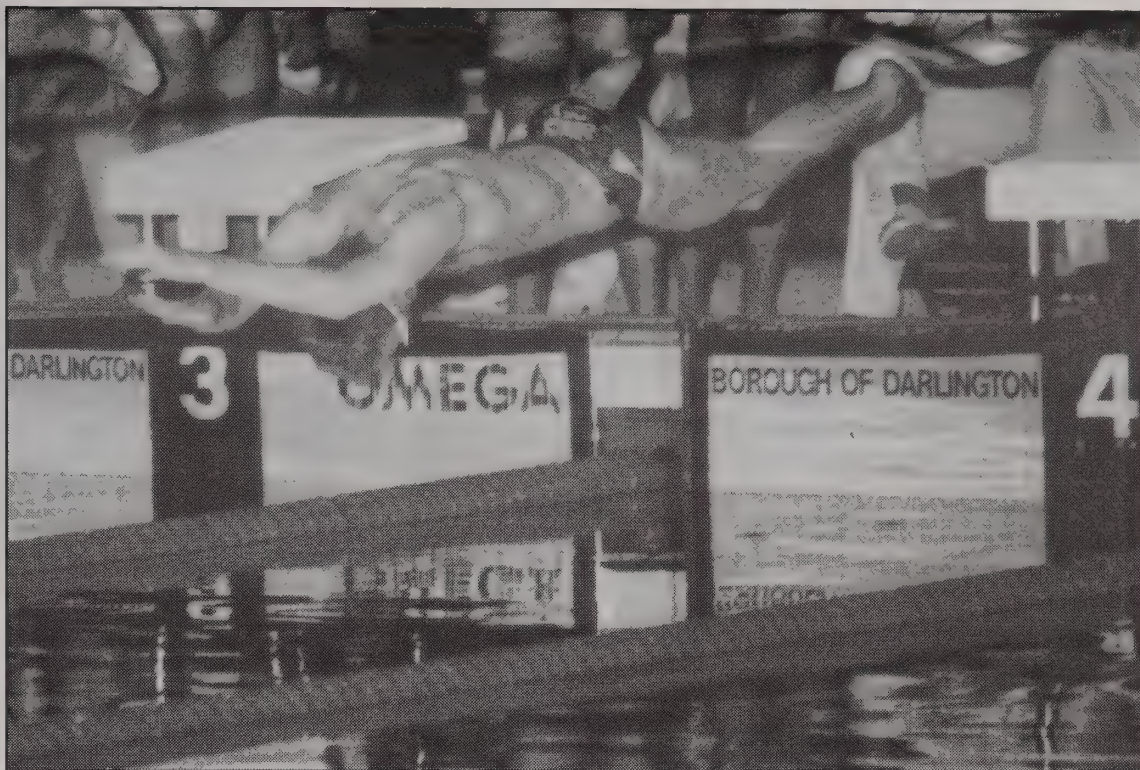
Competitors from almost every London borough took part in football, powerlifting and gymnastic events. They also enjoyed dance workshops, trampolining and aerobics.

International sprinter Ade Mafe attended the closing ceremony and presented trophies to competitors who ran in the 100m Lucozade challenge sprint.

The race was won by Nigel Bourne, from Brent, who clocked up a time of 11.3 seconds. Kenny Colaine, also from Brent, came second.

Organiser Maggie Latter said: "All the teams trained hard for the event and put in a tremendous effort. As far as we are concerned everyone who took part is a winner. The atmosphere was fantastic and the event enormous fun."

Food and drink for the competitors was provided free by Lucozade and the Metropolitan police.



GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

100 swim records smashed

More than 100 records tumbled during senior swimming championships at Darlington in June.

The championships, organised by the British Sports Association for the Disabled (BSAD), were dominated by two of Britain's top swimmers, David Moreton and Robin Surgeoner.

Both will be going for gold in next month's Paralympics.

Moreton, 19, proved he was back to his very best when he won the 100m freestyle race in 58.56 seconds, shaving more than a second off the world record.

The Coventry swimmer suffered a setback last year when he caught glandular fever, but

he has fought his way back to fitness and is now on target for Paralympic success.

"It's great to be fit and in good form again," said David. "It has been a frustrating year but I'm really looking forward to the Paralympics now."

Scotland's Paul Noble, 26, finished a close second in 59.76 seconds. It was the first time two British swimmers had finished inside a minute.

Robin Surgeoner, 29, from Birmingham, was also in record-breaking form. He chipped two seconds off his own world record time in the 100m breaststroke.

"I'm delighted to have beaten my own record and I'm convinced I can go even

faster," said Robin.

"I want to go at least half a second quicker during the Paralympics."

The championships attracted over 180 competitors from all over the UK and a seven-man team from Czechoslovakia.

The team trophy was won by Scotland, whose swimmers set over 30 new national records.

BSAD chief executive Carole Bradley said: "The event was a big success and the performances of the British Paralympic swimmers auger well for next month's games."

Sport is written by
Tim Russell,
tel: 071-636 5020

The best come to Blackpool

Britain's best athletes were in record-breaking form at Stanley Park, Blackpool, last month.

Spectators were treated to a total of 69 national records during the two-day annual meeting, organised by the British Sports Association for the Disabled.

Kenneth Churchill, 17, from Middlesbrough, smashed national records in the javelin and discus competitions.

Churchill threw the javelin 37.28 metres, breaking the old record by more than 12 metres.

Karl Nicholson, 18, from Manchester, was also in stunning form.

He stormed to victory in the 100m wheelchair sprint race and set a new national record of 17.2 seconds.

Esther Cruice, 15, from Moorholm, Cleveland, broke three track records in the 100m, 200m and 400m races.

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Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

More Disney differences

I was most distressed to read the article on the ATS Travel Euro Disney trip (*DN*, June), particularly as I was a passenger on the coach and know much of it to be totally untrue.

Prior to departure, each traveller was contacted personally by Tony Reeve of ATS Travel and advised of the scheduled coach being replaced.

The replacement was very comfortable, having both hot and cold water dispensers, tea/coffee making facilities and a special wheelchair lift.

Mr Armstrong reported that "we got lost" *en route* to our hotel. This was totally untrue. In fact, we actually arrived 30 minutes early.

On arrival at Euro Disney, we experienced a slight delay whilst awaiting the arrival of a guide. However, not two hours, as Mr Armstrong stated. It is not surprising that he made this incorrect statement, as he disappeared immediately on arrival at the park, not to return till later that evening. Tony Reeve promptly arranged two guides to escort the party around the park.

During the tour, we met *all* the Disney characters.

Arriving back at the excellent hotel, the restaurant was open, not closed as the report suggested.

On the final day, our departure was delayed 35 minutes by Mr Armstrong, despite repeated calls by Tony Reeve and others.

On arrival at Calais, Tony Reeve was advised by customs that Mr Armstrong's companion did not have her passport. On enquiring, she admitted that she had left it back at the hotel. Tony Reeve kindly agreed to guarantee the lady's details, at a personal risk of being fined £20,000.

On board the ferry home, Mr Armstrong was yet again late to arrive at the coach, preventing everyone from disembarking and causing further distress to all. It was only through Mr Reeve's concern for the welfare of the group and his organisation skills that the trip was still a most enjoyable experience.

Jeremy Brent
Calco Publications
Edmonton N18

Keith Armstrong writes: I stand by what I said in my article. I have admitted delaying the final departure, although I would contest the time and calls. As her employer, I guaranteed my companion's details at Calais; I was not aware that Tony Reeve did so as well. I did not hold up the coach on the ferry. I shall be taking up the points made in Mr Brent's letter with him.



Worth smiling about: Anna McKenzie hears that her complaint against Dillons for selling a card which made fun of elderly people (reported in *DN*) has produced an apology.

Bad taste card withdrawn

Many thanks for your assistance in tracking down the Dillons bookstore and the supplier of the offending card (*Sic*, *DN*, June).

We have discussed the article within the company and I can assure you that this card and another in the series which are also in poor taste have been withdrawn from sale.

The store concerned has been instructed to exercise more caution in future when selecting "humorous" cards for retail sale.

I would appreciate it if you would give Ms McKenzie our sincere apologies for the obvious distress caused.

Jean Pearson
Marketing Manager, Dillons

War of words

I was encouraged to read that Lords Rix and Snowdon had

rejected the activist view that "mental handicap" is an insulting term (*DN*, June).

It is very important that people should be aware of the flimsy basis for the Department of Health's decision last year to switch from using "mental handicap" to "learning disability". I wrote to the Under-Secretary Tim Yeo in June asking the Department to rethink its terminology.

The decision upset many parents and also, rather surprisingly, the users' organisation People First, which will tolerate only "learning difficulties".

The outcry by various self-advocacy groups against being called "mentally-handicapped" may not have been orchestrated, but neither was it based upon serious argument, or even the use of a dictionary. It consisted of unsupported claims that the term is offensive, degrading, etc.

"Learning disability" is a much less accurate description because it focuses only on knowledge intake and

ignores other very common manifestations such as retarded emotional and social development, and behavioural or communication problems, together with possibly some physical or sensory disability. My daughter is a good illustration of its inadequacy - her problems lie more in communication than learning.

"Learning disability" (or "difficulty") makes it harder to justify to tax payers the provision, for example, of staffed long-stay community homes or adequate respite care for families under stress.

In a similar way MENCAP's fundraising capacity, locally and nationally, will be damaged by public misunderstanding of the purely "educational" image. ("Surely the State takes care of education?") This at a time when ever-heavier demands are being made on the voluntary sector.

A revealing comment was made by Valerie Sinason of the Tavistock Clinic.

"Children with disabilities who come for therapy at the Tavistock are already calling each other 'LD' as an insult."

Another devalued label. Shouldn't the prejudice be the first target?

Dr Raymond Theobald
Bath, Avon

Good and bad loos

I am in a wheelchair and my husband has to come everywhere with me. We find that loos for disabled people are very few and far between. At Blackpool they are awful, there's no key and they all cost 5p. We think Weston-super-Mare's are the best. They have keys and there are quite a lot on the promenade.

The motorway has decent toilets too.

E Dixon, Redditch

sic

Silly games

Getting in to review Eureka!, the new children's museum in Halifax, is no child's play.

Eureka! is billed as "an outstanding example of what can be done to accommodate the needs of children and adults with learning difficulties".

Although it wasn't officially due to open till 9 July, we were told that our reviewers - a mum with two children, one disabled - were welcome any time.

Having arranged time off school for the children and booked a photographer, we were told at the last minute that the visit couldn't go ahead. Communications director Helen Rees explained that the builders were still in so not everywhere was accessible yet.

Ms Rees went as far as

saying we "must be mad" to want to do a review now. If that's an example of Eureka's "outstanding" disability awareness, we suggest Ms Rees goes back a year and does the course again.

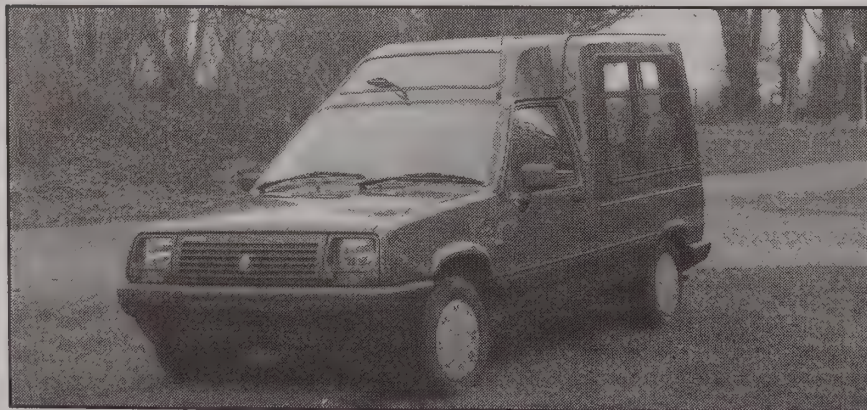
Tribal warfare

The NHS must work together across professional boundaries to overcome the danger of "tribalism", Dr Richard Smith, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, told a National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts conference in June.

Who are these tribes? Doctors, presumably, are the "Great White Hope" tribe, while nurses are the "Underpaidoverworked stressedoutbutgodblessthem" posse. Department of Social Security benefits advisors might be the "Giveth with one hand, snatch back with the other" mob. And as ever, disabled people are the "Silent Hordes".

Any better suggestions, please, to *DN*, address page 2.

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Morris Cerullo: miracle man or charlatan?

Lin Berwick, Methodist local preacher and healer, went to find out

Controversy surrounds the American evangelist Morris Cerullo, whose message will start beaming into many British living rooms in September, courtesy of a licence granted by the Independent Television Commission.

Last month he held a Mission to London.

His advertising campaign made some very bold claims. One poster showed a broken hearing aid with the words: "Some will hear the message of the Bible clearly for the first time." Another with a broken white stick and discarded dark glasses said: "Some will see miracles for the first time." A third, with a discarded wheelchair claimed: "Some will be moved by the power of God for the first time."

The mission, held at Earls Court, lasted eight days. As a blind wheelchair user, involved with the ministry of the laying on of hands, I went along. So did my husband.

Some 10,000 people packed the main hall that afternoon. Most wheelchair users sat in one block. Ninety per cent of the audience was black or of ethnic origin and obviously quite used to the high profile, charismatic style.

The atmosphere was not one of reverence. It was more like Wembley Stadium on cup final night. The noise was deafening as people were "warmed up" for about an hour-and-a-half by Dr Cerullo's aides, who skillfully raised and lowered the emotional temperature helped by a choir, an organ and a back-up group.

Some people came on stage to testify that they had been healed at earlier sessions.

Cerullo books and pamphlets were publicised and people were asked to give generously to advance the miraculous work. Although we were assured that there was no pressure to give, we were left with the impression that generous giving would make miracles more likely.

At last Dr Cerullo appeared. His message, put over with great force, was short on scriptural text and he was clearly unused to the relative reserve of the British. At one point he said he wished he had brought his illuminated Amen sign to prompt their responses.

Essentially, he was saying that if you have enough faith

"The miracle power is waiting to be released! If you unleash the sickness from your life you will be healed!"

in God, you can be cured. He implied that if people are not cured it is because they do not have enough faith. He shouted: "The miracle power is waiting to be released! If you unleash the sickness from your life you will be healed!"

He called on the audience to ask God to "forgive all my diseases". He excited people by asking "Are you ready for the miracle? Are you ready for the word?"

He believes in the presence of the Devil and says that the Devil is to be found in all walks of life. He asked the audience to point to a side of the auditorium and shout out: "Devil, this afternoon we are serving notice, you stay on your side of the line."

Sickness, it seems, is to be equated with the power of the Devil in someone's life. To my way of thinking this is highly dangerous in the field of disability, when one may already have a poor body image and feel deeply let down by the power of God.

If any disabled person was seeking a fruitful Christian experience, struggling to find a pathway to faith that they can feel comfortable with, then I am sure they went away from Earls Court disappointed.

As a disabled person who still hangs on to a strong Christian faith, I found the Cerullo view of disability insulting. Has he thought that perhaps God can display his power far more convincingly if we are not cured? My disability has enabled me to get alongside people, share their suffering and fully empathise with them. I think I can be far more effective in understanding a person's pain because I have been through my own dark valley and come out the other side.

Perhaps if I had been cured, my ministry would not have been so meaningful. In any case, why should we have an "elitist society" where everybody is perfect? In II Corinthians 12, verses 7-10, Paul speaks of "when I am weak then I am strong".

I also feel deeply troubled that there may have been many vulnerable people at the meeting who expected their own miracle. Dr Cerullo made claims that people were healed. He said: "I am being told that someone has been healed of cancer" and he invited a person with throat cancer to swallow and the lump is



Dr Cerullo: man with a message at Earls Court. EVENING STANDARD

alleged to have disappeared.

He said he was told that someone was healed of a stroke. So it went on, with people who seemed relatively mobile coming on to the platform and stating they had been cured of such things as arthritis or a knee injury. We did not see people with severe disabilities leaping from their wheelchairs or climbing the six steps.

Some people who had been "healed" seemed to fall down in a trance. From where we sat it looked as if Dr Cerullo put a hand on their foreheads and pushed, whereupon they were caught by aides and laid down.

The excitement generated can be frightening. Wheelchair users have been scared as people trying to cast out the Devil in them closed in. I was glad I was well out of reach.

Although the Cerullo team has "counsellors," I wonder who will pick up the pieces when he flies away.

It is a thousand pities the power of the Holy Spirit is not preached with such fervour in our own churches and perhaps Cerullo's greatest achievement is that he had 10,000 people in his congregation that day.

But I think he has damaged the healing ministry in Britain. People will think of his style when they think of healing.

To me, he uses his evangelism to "market" the power of God rather than as a channel for the presence of the Holy Spirit. Surely our Lord would not have approved of such tactics.

Heart of the Matter (BBC 1) will monitor some of the "miracles" in August.

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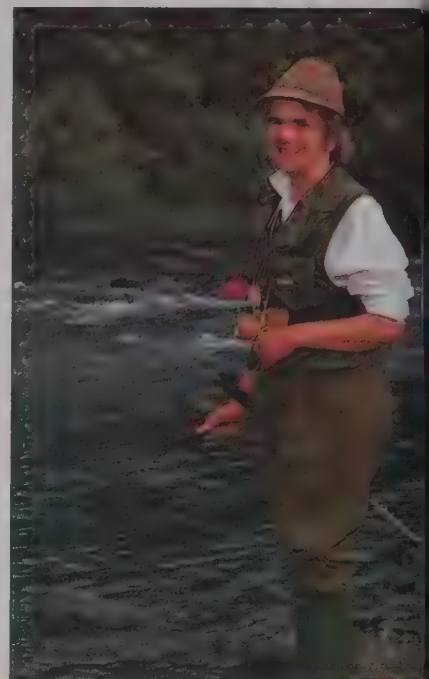
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DN8/92



Wheelchair users in Kent, who like rivers, reeds and fishing, should visit the new access trail beside Brookland Lake, Snodland (left) where all these watery delights are on offer, plus a purpose-built picnic area. The trail is part of the Medway River Project which is enhancing the river valley and improving access. Information boards and a leaflet will tell you about fishing and wildlife. There are parking spaces, accessible loos, and refreshments most days.

Fishing c



Fly-fishing in the River Doon was "true" for Clos-O-Mat/DN competitor Ann Brown (above left).

It was the first time Mrs Brown, near Hereford, had ever won a competition. Her husband spent four nights at the Doon Hotel, Irvine, Scotland last month and had a wonderful time.

They caught only salmon par (little fish) which were returned to the river, but that was enough. "We had a wonderful time," she said.

Since her stroke two years ago, Mrs Brown, a physical training lecturer, has learned to be more independent, using tackle adapted by her husband.

Craig McCartney from Chantingh



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News from the National Trust

The National Trust (NT) has its first two stairclimbers in place, at Gibside Chapel in Northumberland and Shugborough in Staffordshire.

A wheelchair-accessible lift at the Turbine House, Aberdulais Falls, West Glamorgan, lets visitors go up to see the River Dulais.

A new pathway from the car park to the top of Box Hill offers wheelchair users and disabled walkers views of Surrey and Sussex.

The Trust's 1992 *Booklet of Information for Disabled Visitors* includes new, accessible places, such as the garden at Barrington Court, Somerset. Free from NT properties and shops.



Green-fingered wheelchair users in Buckinghamshire, can now have a garden designed by horticulturalist and by New Era Laboratories.. The he

Competition winners



ALAN B MAIN/ROBERT STEWART PHOTOGRAPHY

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(above right) with ghillie Colin McKenzie, won three nights at the inn and two days fishing. Like Mrs Brown, he says his technique improved, thanks to Colin and professional fisherman Philip Curzons. He didn't mind catching salmon par either. According to his winning tie-breaker, his idea of a perfect day's fishing is "to relax outdoors and have pleasant company. To catch fish is a bonus."

This was the first DN fishing competition, sponsored by Clos-O-Mat, makers of that very special toilet. Chairman Robert Willan, a keen fisherman himself, was pleased everyone enjoyed themselves and the Hospitality Inn had such good facilities. He is considering sponsoring a repeat competition next year.



Yorkshire Mining Museum at Overton, Wakefield (above), winner awards for facilities for disabled visitors, has some new ones, to Yorkshire Electricity. Visually impaired people can use a cassette audio tour, fixed or portable tactile maps of the site, a guide to the visitor centre and gallery and braille leaflets (on for deaf people, there is a minicom phone (0924) 848806).



the Mandeville hospital,
four different raised gardens,
aster Sue Phillips and donated
den (above) has a bird bath.

Sculpture and tactiles

The new Ridding Wood Sculpture Trail in Grizedale Forest, Cumbria, is designed for older and disabled visitors. It boasts 10 specially commissioned sculptures made from materials in the forest.

Fancy turning a granite Kugel (ball) 40cm in diameter, weighing 90kg? It is floating in a garden for blind people and wheelchair users in the Castle Pleasure Grounds, off River Drive, Tamworth. Another (90 cm diameter) is at the Severn Trent Water visitors' centre, near Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Spectacular sights on Duke's Trail

Malcolm Nelson reports
The Forestry Commission has for many years encouraged the public to use its forests for quiet, informal recreation.

Kielder Forest, the largest man-made forest in Northern Europe, also contains Kielder Water, the largest man-made lake.

Now, with a generous £16,000 contribution from the Federation of Master Builders, the first woodland trail has been constructed at Kielder Forest. Called the Duke's Trail, it has been built solely with disabled people in mind and is suitable for wheelchairs, ambulatory disabled people and visually impaired people (as well as parents with young children in pushchairs).

"Walking" the trail, which begins and ends at Kielder Castle, the former hunting lodge of the Duke of Northumberland, takes about 30 minutes. The slopes are very gradual and rails at both sides of the path have a wide top bar suitable for sitting on. Notices point out interesting



Tracking down the Duke: Baroness Masham escorted by Derrick Ovington of the Federation of Master Builders.

facts about the area.

The trail passes a pond. At the moment, it ends at a turning point and you have to return the same way.

Other trails at Kielder aren't as accessible, but the Duchess Trail, which runs nearby, is almost as easy as the Duke's and has a picnic area.

At Kielder Castle, the exhibitions, craft shop, tea rooms and toilet facilities are all accessible. You can go upstairs via a stairlift, but they are hoping to install a lift.

At the opening in April by Baroness Masham, the forestry staff were very helpful without being condescending and they had obviously put a lot of effort into the scheme and into the day. Our suggestions on improving the trail were

carefully noted.

The trail is worth trying and the whole area, with the trees, wildlife, open heaths and water is spectacular.

Parking areas are usually strategically placed at view points and disabled visitors are well catered for.

Let's hope disabled people use the new facilities and so support the continuation and expansion of these ventures which benefit so many people.

Kielder Centre, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland, tel: (0434) 250209. Open Easter-end October 10am-5pm, August and bank holidays 10am-6pm.

Malcolm Nelson is secretary of Disability Information and Services Carlisle (DISC).

Play golf and eat in style

A 250-acre, £5 million development devoted to golfers and recreation is geared to wheelchair users.

The Shropshire Golf, Dining and Recreation Centre at Muxton, near Telford, opened in July, has a 27 hole golf course.

Four of the bays in the floodlit practice range (£1 for 40 balls) are extra-wide for wheelchair users and are adjacent to the car park.

There is ramp access to the coffee shop and golf shop in the practice range building and an accessible toilet.

Some of the bars/lounges and the *a la carte* Grange Restaurant (about £12 for a three course meal), in the refurbished 19th Century farmhouse, are on the ground floor and wheelchair-accessible. Ramps have been installed where necessary. Doorways are wide enough for a wheelchair and there is another accessible toilet.

Even the kitchens are wheelchair accessible. (If you are interested in a job, ring Jo Marvell, general manager).

There are plans for an equestrian centre, trout fishing, tennis courts, bowling green, swimming pool and fitness centre.

DN has not been along, so if readers go, let us know what you think of the centre.

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MUSIC

Bobbi Style and the Love Junkies

Girl, the first single from Bobbie Style and his band The Love Junkies, was released last month.

I listened to a promo tape with excitement. Bobbi has all the signs of being a mainstream superstar.

The New Media Group which is managing the band said: "Bobbi's story is one of courage and determination to make it 'big' in the music industry..."

I have always recognised his determination, but I don't think he needs courage. He is talented, good looking, has a great voice and presentation and can out-perform some of the better-known pop stars.

I heard his previous material, which I didn't feel matched this standard. But *Girl* I was happy to play again and again. I immediately heard tinges of Right said Fred with Bobbi's own slightly Bowie-esque style.

The lyrics are a bit trite but then - let's face it - so are a lot of the lyrics you hear in the Top 20.

The Love Junkies have played in London at the Marquee, Hammersmith Odeon, Borderline and Mean



Bobbi Style: "all the signs of being a mainstream superstar"

Fiddler. Their most recent gig in May was at Happy Jax.

As well as being a musician, Bobbi is involved in fashion design for disabled people - and about time too. We desperately need a fashionable option like anyone else, and if you also use an electric wheelchair and want to wear leathers, chains, pvc etc, plenty of improvements can be made.

Bobbi also organises "raves" for able-bodied and disabled

people.

He has never compromised his style to fit into the world of disability arts. His determination makes him ready to face the world at large. Good luck to him.

Isobel Ward

From sales of Girl, Bobbi is making a contribution to The Spastics Society and SOS. The New Media Group, tel: (0494) 672492.

BOOKS

The Bereaved Parent
by Harriet Sarnoff Schiff
(*Human Horizons Series*,
£6.99)

Children DO die. As a parent, you probably consider it in passing, especially if your child is disabled.

But what happens when it is your child? Our son Guy William died in July 1991. Whether you think you are prepared or not, you are devastated. You are expected to die before them, aren't you? What have you done wrong?

In *The Bereaved Parent*, Harriet Sarnoff Schiff explains how you feel, how others treat you, why your friends won't or can't talk to you, and why you have lost control.

It has happened to her too, but instead of writing a personal book, she has drawn together bereaved parents' stories and expert opinion to help others.

The book will also explain to "outsiders" such as friends and counsellors, what a parent goes through. Maybe it will prevent them from falling into the trap of patronising a bereaved parent.

The book reinforced our experiences and is a pleasure to read. First published in 1977 and reissued in March this year, it proves the issues are timeless.

Since Harriet Sarnoff Schiff is American, the British reader may be put off with certain Americanisms and references to 1960s/1970s USA. But there has been some minor tinkering and, most importantly, reference is made to the *Compassionate Friends*, a group of bereaved parents who offer support and friendship to others.

In our experience, newly bereaved parents may be daunted by the thought of reading a book like this and would find the directness of *Compassionate Friends'* publications enough. In time, though, they should read it.

The contents could be a checklist of how well you are coping: Bereavement and the Funeral; Grieving; Powerlessness; Marriage; Siblings; Communication; Religion; Pleasure;

Functioning; The Rest of Your Life. The break-down doesn't quite work. Two of the most important subjects, grieving and communicating, are the most briefly covered.

But the book really needs to be judged as a whole. As such, it is a very worthwhile read for those new to bereavement and their counsellors.

Carolyn and Brian Slingsby

The Compassionate Friends, 6 Denmark Street, Bristol BS1 5DQ. (Please send SAE.)

Furniture

(*The Disability Information Trust*, Mary Marlborough Lodge, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Windmill Road, Headington OX3 7LD, £9.95.)

This new title in the "Equipment for Disabled People" series covers a wide variety of chairs, tables, beds, and accessories for them.

Aimed at "all who wish to choose or recommend with knowledge", it continues the high standards set by the others. The clear, well-arranged presentation makes it a useful reference book.

It is divided into sections, each focussing on a particular type of equipment, eg manually-reclining chairs. A useful feature is that each section is preceded by some general advice on what to consider before you purchase. Then items are discussed in detail, including the price and manufacturer.

Clear black and white photographs help to make choosing between two similar sounding pieces of furniture far easier. Colour photographs would have brightened the whole book, but I suppose made the price prohibitive.

There is a comprehensive reading list for those wishing to explore the subject in greater depth, a list of the companies mentioned and of disabled living centres where personal advice can be found.

Whilst I suspect the book will be used mainly by occupational therapists, it deserves a wider market, possibly through local libraries. It would be invaluable to anyone trying to make an informed choice between a bewildering array of furniture. At £9.95 for all that detailed information, it is a bargain.

Mary Queally

"For those who need more support"



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DNB/92



Nabil Shaban (left) was King Neb (with a 12-foot Rapunzel plait) and Jag Plah a Fallen Angel in IOU Theatre's eccentric, funny, *Boundary* at the Bradford Festival. The show may go to London and other places. Tel: (0422) 369217.

FILM

Night on Earth

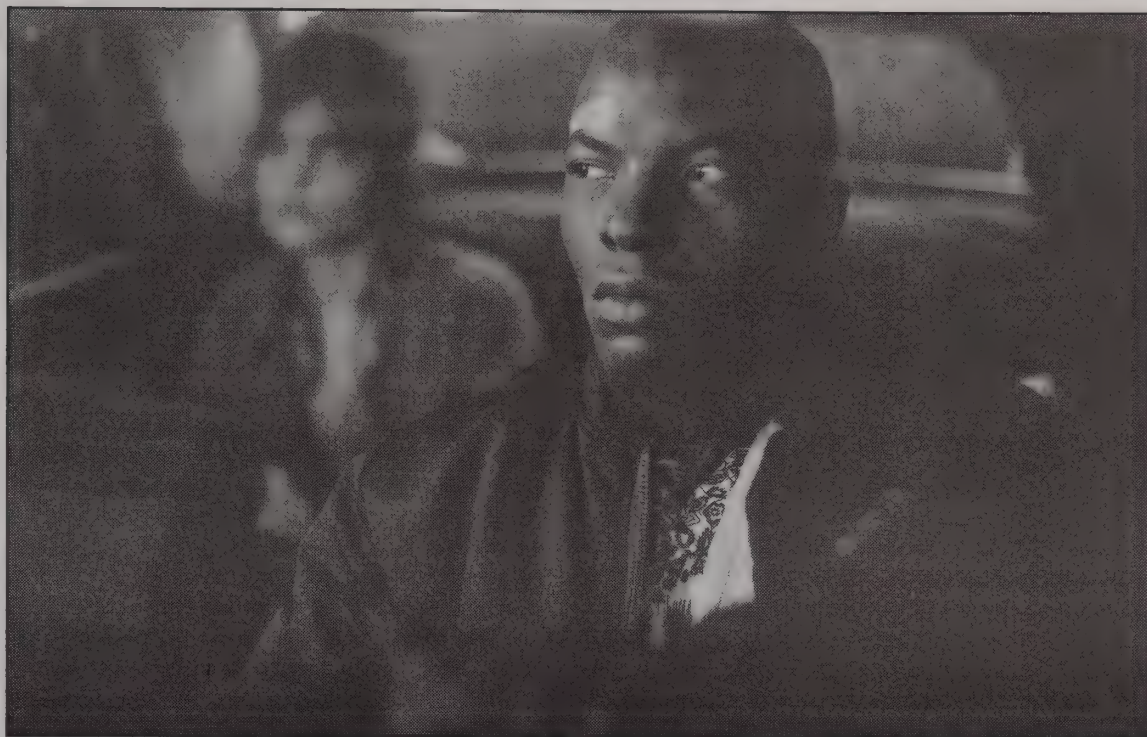
Director Jim Jarmusch enjoys limiting the dramatic scope of his films. His latest, *Night on Earth*, is his most restricted yet, consisting of five cab rides around Los Angeles, New York, Paris, Rome and Helsinki, all on the same night.

Through these trips he pursues familiar themes of dislocation and culture clashes with varying degrees of success.

The second and fourth episodes are the most humorous. An East German cabbie (Armin Mueller Stahl) is the only driver who'll take an African-American (Giancarlo Esposito) from mid-town Manhattan to Brooklyn. But the "fare" won't let go of the gear-stick, so the passenger takes control of the vehicle.

In Rome, Roberto Benigni is the driver scandalising his priest passenger with a tour-de-force monologue about his sins - including bestiality!

The first episode plays like the tale of a Hollywood brat-



African cabbie (Isaak de Bankole) meets blind passenger (Beatrice Dalle) in *Night on Earth*.

packer trying to break his screen image, with Winona Ryder (from *Mermaids*) as a slobbish driver taking a prim businesswoman (Gena Rowlands) home.

The last one has a gloomy, humanistic tone in which a Finnish cabbie picks up a trio of men, one of whom is well pickled, having lost his job and looking likely to lose his wife too. The driver assures them things could be worse and tells his own story.

The most interesting episode is the third in which an

African cabbie (Isaak de Bankole), belittled by other Africans who are passengers, picks up a blind woman (Beatrice Dalle). He challenges her to guess his nationality which she gets right - even down to naming his dialect.

The driver tries to form a bond with her, seemingly as another member of a "misunderstood minority". But she won't play ball. She won't tolerate any condescension.

The episode is about distinguishing between different prejudices. Even so,

the woman comes across as the stereotypical angry/bitter disabled person.

That Jarmusch cast Dalle is a nod to her performance in *Betty Blue*, in which she played a woman who blinded herself out of anger. Her part is less about wanting to deal with disability issues than to make a "filmic" in-joke.

It transpires that Jarmusch hasn't just limited the stage for his performers, he's also limited his own attempt to represent disability.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

FESTIVAL

13th Celtic Film Festival

The Celtic Film Festival is an annual event to promote the cultures of six languages - Breton, Cornish, Irish-Gaelic, Manx, Scottish-Gaelic and Welsh. The 13th Festival held in Carmarthen (28 June to 2 July) did its bit for disability culture as well as the Celtic countries.

With a number of awards up for grabs, it was pleasing to see Ysgol Hafod Lon, a school for people with learning difficulties, pick up two prizes totalling £600. They took the main prize and the category 5 prize (for children with special needs aged 11-18) in The SBEC TV Wales 1992 Film and Video Competition for Young People.

The five-minute video, *Playing in the Band/Chwarae yn y Band*, is made up of stills, TV coverage and original material. It tells the history of the school's band, which was started in 1986 by the head teacher, Arfon Wyn. His philosophy is: "Everybody can make music and should be given the chance to do so."

The sound is experimental,

a mix of Pink Floyd and Steve Reich.

A performance in the Royal Albert Hall, which brought the house down, was recorded on a camera smuggled in in an ordinary travelling bag. Arfon says the Albert Hall folk still don't know about this little transgression.

The band involves pupils from the school and no more than three able-bodied musicians of the same age from other local schools. Past and present pupils appear in the video.

Its narrator, Maxwell Lewis, is, like other ex-pupils, still involved with the band when it performs out of school as Band Arbenning Dwyndford.

On his role in the video he's very casual, saying he was "a bit nervous" but really had "no problems".

Arfon Wyn joked about using the prize money on a school holiday in the Caribbean! Most likely the money won't stretch that far, Arfon.

But if it can be ploughed back into the band and possibly more video work, then it's certainly thumbs up to the Celtic Film Festival.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

Video (at present only in Welsh) from Arfon Wyn, Ysgol Hafod Lon, Four Crosses, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, North Wales, tel: (0766) 810626.



Eldorado star: Julie Fernandez, 18, (above) has a big part in the BBC's new soap, which began in July. She plays Nessa Lockhead, screen daughter of Patricia Brake and Campbell Morrison, who is always getting her brother (Josh Nathan) out of trouble. Julie, who has brittle bones and uses a wheelchair, always wanted to be an actress and was in every play at her school, Lord Mayor Treloar in Hampshire. She is also an athlete and swimmer.

Look out for Common Ground Sign Dance Theatre (tel: 081-575 1078) is running open workshops (3-6 August) culminating in a performance on 7 August at the Walpole Festival, Ealing, London, in the London Bubble (theatre tent with accessible loos). For London Bubble venues, tel: 071-237 4434.

VIDEO

S: subtitles. NS: no subtitles

1. BILL AND TED'S BOGUS JOURNEY (20:20) "Most excellent" yooof comedy yarn. (NS)

2. THE ADDAMS FAMILY COLUMBIA/TRISTAR) Cartoon comedy of the ghoulish kind. (NS)

3. POINT BREAK (FOX VIDEO) Surfer adventure pic high on male bonding. (NS)

4. HOT SHOTS (FOX VIDEO) Abrahams' stable turns out another *Airplane*-style spoof. (NS)

5. ONLY THE LONELY (FOX VIDEO) Romance-comedy with mum standing in the way of son's desires. (NS)

Andy Kimpton-Nye

Chart courtesy of MRIB

Glasgow's Key Gallery, run by two partially sighted artists Mansell Griffiths and Ian Hamilton, promotes the work of disabled artists. Tel: 041-332 4632.

Black, disabled artist Millee Hill has an exhibition till 31 July at the Masbro Centre, 87 Masbro Road, London W14. Good wheelchair access. Free.

TV

I was glad to see that one of the Channel 4 programmes in the *Beat That!* series (see *DN* July) has won two prizes at the Prix Jeunesse in Munich, the biennial festival of children's television. Well done, Channel 4.



"Altered States" (*Disabled Lives* series, BBC2 7 July) was deservedly well-scheduled in the early evening. It was a radical look at the media's portrayal of disability as exemplified in the case of PC Philip Olds.

I suspect the aim was to show how the *Daily Mail* and Desmond Wilcox had further disabled the man by sensationally portraying his quest for "normality".

What came over to me was that the media had acquiesced and pandered to Olds' worst tendencies - egocentricity and chauvinism. The most disabling force in his life was his own character.

The value of "Altered States" was to show that not all disabled people - even those who acquire an impairment - share his negativity. An excellent documentary, which I hope got the audience it deserved.

I fully expected to dislike the video diary of 15-year-old Jennifer, "The Daughter sent from Hell" (*Teenage Diaries* series, BBC2 27 June). Obligated to be a carer to her mother who has MS, she yearned to be a carefree teenager.

There was a contradiction built into her diary: while openly resenting her mother's new condition and the restrictions it imposed on her, underneath she clearly loved her mother and cared about her well being.

This made me feel quite sorry for Jennifer. Though I can't identify with her dilemma, I do understand how difficult it must be for her.

Even though it was another celebration of the "burden of caring", I'd say that Jennifer's story proves the stereotype of carers as brave slaves is a gross simplification.

"The Body Beautiful" (*The Dazzling Image* series, C4, 15 June) was a film made to counter the negative imagery associated with mastectomy. It was a brave example of defiance, using the relationship between the film-maker and her mother, who had had the operation. Indeed beautiful.

As I write, *Eldorado* (BBC1, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) has burst upon the screen. The central family includes a teenage daughter who is a wheelchair user. Watch this space.

Chris Davies

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DN8/92

A fair day's pay for a fair day's work

When it comes to getting a job, people with learning difficulties are even further back in the queue than most disabled people. Several schemes are now showing them the way into work



PATRICK BAGLEE

Alison Rowat reports

Any outfit which calls itself The Real Jobs Project had better mean business. Launched in Edinburgh in June, it aims to find 40 "real jobs" for people with learning difficulties over the next four years.

Claiming to be unique in Scotland, Real Jobs is in some ways similar to Mencap's Pathway Employment Service which operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Real Jobs likens itself to Blake's Wharfe and Excel Recruitment projects in London.

Whatever their differences, all seek to place disabled people in real jobs paying proper wages. They will assist people in their search for work, help with training, and give support beyond that if necessary. The level of support depends on the worker's ability to manage on their own.

The Edinburgh scheme was set up by The Action Group, a parent-managed voluntary group which also provides accommodation, leisure and welfare rights services.

employ people out of sympathy. They are asked to employ a worker who can do a job for them."

People can approach the Project themselves, or be referred by Adult Training Centres (ATCs), disablement resettlement officers, social workers, etc.

The first task is to compile a "vocational profile" of the job seeker, listing skills, interests, education, employment history and home circumstances. They are then assigned an "employment worker" who becomes their personal job coach.

When a person is referred, a contract is drawn up between them, their carer or person who referred them, and the employment worker. This sets a time limit in which employment must be found.

An employment contract between the worker, employer, employment worker and a carer/advocate is also drawn up when a job is found, setting out goals. However, the Project says: "This is not a legal contract and is not binding on either party".

Once the job seeker and employment worker are agreed which jobs to go for, the

skilled the worker is, the less likely they will need such a high level of support. Some people may only need visits and telephone calls to see how they're doing.

Pathway operates a "foster-worker" scheme, whereby employers nominate someone to befriend the disabled person, showing them around, etc. Mencap will pay the foster worker £5 a week for up to 12 weeks (although they say payment is often refused and the scheme is rarely used now).

In the Pathway scheme, workers get a basic £45 a week from the Government's Job Introduction Subsidy (JIS) scheme while they are training or on trial. Pathway will top this up to the full wage for up to three months.

Real Jobs can use the JIS as well, and there is also a training subsidy available from Lothian Regional Council. Subsidies will be used "if necessary" says manager John Rowan, but employers will be expected to pay the going rate from the start.

Edinburgh Leith Labour MP Malcolm Chisholm wants to see others follow Real Jobs' example: "There's an individual approach which allows choice, matching to the correct job, and appropriate support. There's an insistence on integration. There's an underlying assumption that people with learning difficulties should lead as normal and independent a life as possible. All this contrasts with the traditional Adult Training Centre (ATC) approach based on segregation, inadequate remuneration, and training for something which never arrives."

Mencap's Pathway has been going since 1975, and has made around 2,700 placements into paid jobs, 80 per cent of which have been successful.

At the Edinburgh project, there are only nine people on the books so far - not bad going for a project that is still taking the wrapping paper off.

There are "no preconceived notions" about the sort of jobs people will want to do.

So far, people have chosen to try car valeting, work in Safeways supermarkets, or painting and decorating. Employers are now being contacted.

Parent and Action Group chairman Joan Griffiths said: "Employment is so vital in giving dignity and independence to people. People with learning disabilities should have this opportunity too."

employment worker starts scouting for vacancies, using all the usual routes: newspapers, job centres, telephoning round, or visiting employers.

The employment officer will be there to lend a hand when it comes to interviews, application forms, and - importantly - boosting confidence.

When a job is found, the employment worker will go into the work setting and learn the job first, then teach it to the worker.

All of this is discretionary: the more independent and



Vanessa Smith (right), another Pathwayer, is a chambermaid at the Hilton National, Basingstoke. PETER TRULOCK/MENCAP

The Real Jobs Project, tel: 031-551 5551.

For more information on Pathway, contact Mencap, tel: 071 454 0454.

Pathway is one of many schemes listed in a new book, *Innovations in Employment Training and*

Work for People with Learning Difficulties, edited by Roy McConkey and Patrick McGinley. Published by the Brothers of Charity, it costs £10 (inc p&pp) from them at Lisieux Hall, Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 7DX.

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Share Your Problems

with Ann Dambrough

Watch out for rogue Romeos on your holiday



This time of year is called the "silly season" I wonder why. It can't be just because Parliament isn't sitting. After all they do some pretty silly things when they are sitting.

Is it because a lot of people are on holiday and will be letting their hair down in a way unheard of at home?

Is it because a lot of single people going on holiday will be looking for romance, and while some will find new happiness, there will be quite a few broken hearts along the way?

When we are out of our usual surroundings it is difficult to judge other people. Somebody who is great fun on holiday may be no fun at all in our day to day existence.

Are disabled people more vulnerable to this sort of experience? Perhaps, particularly where there are volunteer helpers who will need to be physically close to holidaymakers by the nature of their help, and who could take advantage of this.

I recently heard from one reader - I will call her Jane - who had had a desperately unhappy experience.

Jane's holiday went well till one of the volunteers started paying her more attention than she liked. Somehow the

relationship developed through sheer persistence on the volunteer's part. He rang her when she got home and in no time at all she found she was deeper in than she wished.

She also discovered that as well as being something of a Romeo, he was something of a rogue, with dubious ideas about truth and honesty.

It is all over now, but at great emotional cost to Jane. However, she is making a good recovery and says she feels a much stronger person as a result of all that she has been through.

Jane agrees that without volunteers to help and to join in the fun it may be impossible for many disabled people to go on holiday. Lots of friendships are formed and no advantage is taken.

Jane wants to stress, though, that she hopes organisations "using" volunteers on their holidays will take extra care with references. Her message to holidaymakers is have fun, but beware!

Should one proselytize?

A reader, Ben (not his real name), recently asked me to pass on some Christian literature to other readers. I declined to do so. Such

literature had not been requested and may well not have been in tune with these people's beliefs.

We live in an exciting multi-cultural society in which people have various religious beliefs and a large number have none.

Ben had the best of intentions. He received such inspiration from Christianity himself that he wanted to share this with others.

Sadly, he was very angry when I explained I would not send unsolicited political or religious material to readers (though I will always try to meet requests for information on any subject put by *DN* readers).

Of course I have my own views on religion, but I am not declaring them, because I believe it is important to be open to all readers' views as well as to listen to their joys and problems.

In our multi-cultural society we have rich traditions to bring together and I hope that in this column we can openly and profitably share them.

What do readers think? What would you say to Ben if you were replying to him?

A similar question is raised when some national disability organisations, despite having a diverse membership, celebrate particular occasions with a Christian service. This form of worship may well reflect the views of the organisers and of some members, but must inevitably exclude those disabled members and their friends who hold different views. What do readers think?

Whatever religious views we hold or whether we hold none, we all have spiritual needs and, depending on our inner resources, spiritual strengths. We have to find our own ways to succour and strengthen the spiritual side of our nature.

While the words "suffering from" are no longer acceptable to many disabled people, we nevertheless all suffer at some times in our lives, whether this is directly associated with disability or not. It is at such

times that we need to draw on spiritual resources.

Many people will turn to God, deriving great comfort through prayer. Others will draw inspiration and peace from religious rituals, religious writings or meditation. People with a religious belief often say that without their faith they could not have faced the challenges posed by disability.

Conversely, others feel their belief threatened as a result of their experience and will speak about "feeling angry with God" because of their disabilities and the difficulties they see these causing.

I have heard people who profess no religion say that far from feeling any lack of inspiration, they feel empowered to be able to draw on diverse sources for the spiritual support they need and to be responsible for drawing up their own moral code.

I would be very interested to hear from readers who feel their lives have been enriched by their religious beliefs. I would also like to hear from those who profess no religion and draw on other strengths.

Wherever our beliefs lie, it is certain we will have been through a good many crises in our lives.

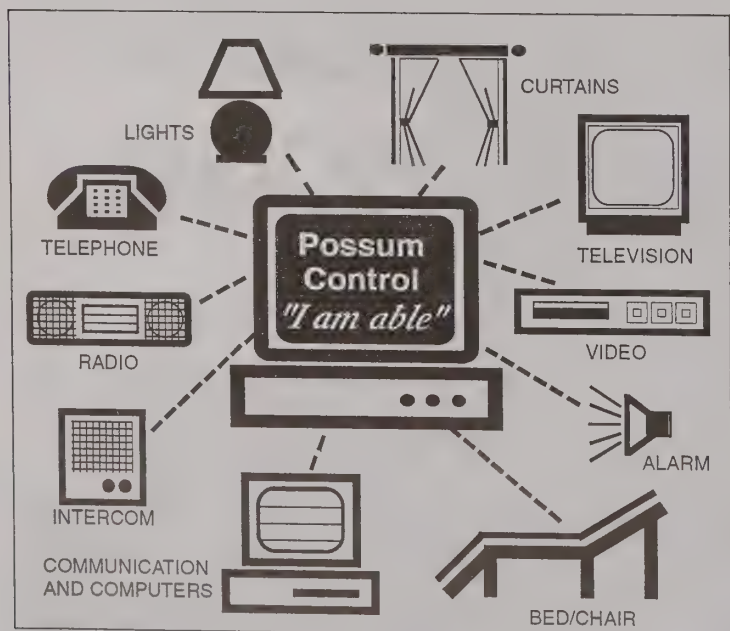
Please do write to me, c/o *DN*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, and share some of your experiences through this column, telling me at the same time who you went to when you needed advice and encouragement.

Did you go to family, friends, ministers, priests, counsellors or who?

I look forward to hearing from you.

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Lin Berwick, *DN*'s telephone counsellor, herself, disabled, can give advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm to 10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582.



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PROFILE



Kerena Marchant

Kerena Marchant achieved a life long ambition when she was appointed editor of the BBC's new Disability Programmes Unit (DPU).

"I've always wanted to make television programmes with a team of talented disabled people. We've got plenty of strong ideas and I think our output will be very innovative."

"I'm particularly delighted that we will regularly take on unemployed disabled people and train them to compete for jobs in the television industry"

Kerena, 31, who is deaf, was born in Iran. She came to England as a child and would like to return some day.

She was educated in Sussex. "The local education authority wanted me to go to a special school, but my mother insisted I had a mainstream education and saved up to pay for it. I was lucky the classes were small and the teachers gave me plenty of support."

At Bristol University, studying theology, she met discrimination. "I needed a sign language interpreter or a note-taker for lectures but these were refused. I seemed to spend my entire university career reading books."

Even so, she stood for the presidency of Bristol's students union and joined local deaf clubs. "I became very involved with the deaf movement and learnt sign language. All this gave me a greater sense of identity and more confidence."

She appeared in several university plays and helped to write one. "I also loved television and, because my mother was a journalist, I wanted a career in TV news."

While working in Derbyshire social services, she made over 100 applications to the BBC. "I wanted to become a subtitler, but they told me I was too deaf and offered me a clerical job instead."

At last she landed a subtitling job with CEEFAX. After three years she became a researcher in the BBC's religious department. She also helped make youth and schools programmes, including *Def II*.

Karena hopes the DPU will include reports on Maastricht and the Yugoslavian civil war. "We want to challenge world attitudes to disabled people and lead the struggle of the last civil rights movement."

Tim Russell

!WORDDOONS!

What's a wordoon we hear you cry? Wordoons by Bernard Cranwell are cartoons made up of letters which represent a well-known phrase or saying. For example:

F=I=R=S=T

represents "first among equals". Get the idea? Here are some more. Answers at bottom of page.

1. DOCTOR A OR DOCTOR B?

2. CYR1L

3. READING

4. VE RDICT

5. MA BA

Win a £10 prize

Can you create-a-caption?

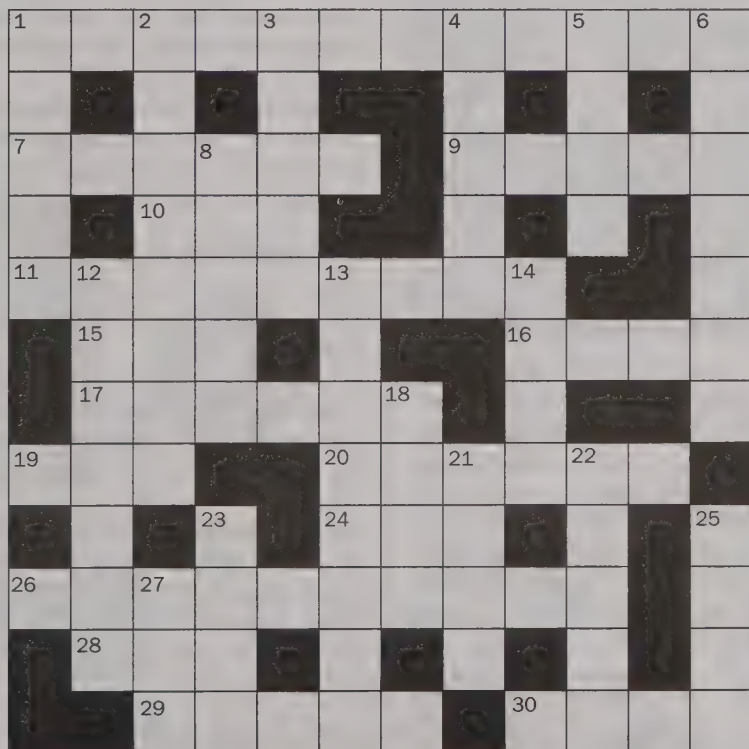


DN art critic Gioya Steinke gets to grips with Elizabeth Frink's "War Horse" at the Royal Academy's Summer Show (on till 16 August, see review in DN, July). What could they be neighing/saying to each other? Answers please to DN, address page 2, by 13 August.

DN's crossword

Answers page 27

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. Off-putting (12)
7. It makes dough rise (6)
9. Pier supports (5)
10. Item at auction (3)
11. Exaggerated stories (4,5)
15. Small bird (3)
16. Scheme (4)
17. List of duties
19. University lecturer (3)
20. Countrified (6)
24. Burnt wood
26. From end to end (10)
28. Tropical fruit
29. It makes dough rise (5)
30. Drab (4)

DOWN

1. Dutch pottery (5)
2. Lost nail (anag.)
3. Steve —, English runner (5)
4. Abundant (5)
5. Land surrounded by water (4)
6. Region of France (7)
8. Units of electric force (5)
12. Muscle wastage (7)
13. Grave sea (anag.)
14. Saliva (4)
18. Liverpool footballer (4)
21. Fired (4)
22. Bury (5)
23. Curved roof (4)
25. Jealousy (4)
27. Boy's name or fish (3)

July winner

The £10 goes to Mrs J A Dismore of Swindon. As the cow dips into the bucket the man is saying: "And the winner is ..."

Thanks to everyone who entered the competition.



... NEWS QUIZ ...

Answers page 27

1. Which national side won the European Football Championship?
2. Which political party was elected to government in Israel?
3. Which Christian denomination voted at its national conference to recognise feminine characteristics of God?
4. Which speech did Margaret Thatcher record on CD?
5. Which Western leader flew into Sarajevo to plead for peace there?
6. Who stopped British player Jeremy Bates reaching the Wimbledon quarter-finals?
7. Why did the African National Congress break off talks with the South African government?
8. How does the Government plan to speed up provision of services to children with special education needs?
9. Which country said it would resume whaling in spite of International Whaling Commission rules?
10. Who came to London claiming he could heal disabilities?

WORDDOON ANSWERS
1. Witch doctor. 2. Nice one Cyril. 3. Reading between the lines. 4. Open verdict. 5. One degree under.

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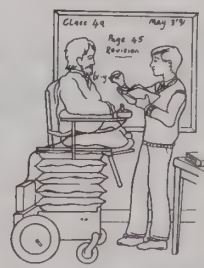
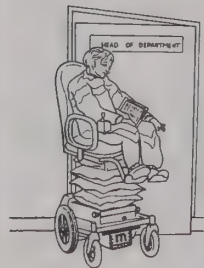
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CHECKOUT

Easy does it

Sometimes it's the simple ideas that are the best. This month Checkout looks at some small, inexpensive devices which can make day-to-day living so much easier.

The Bath Institute of Medical Engineering (BIME) has come up with a **swallowing aid**. It is a tiny electronic device which can be carried around in a pocket or fixed to a lapel. An alarm sounds at pre-set, regular intervals of between 15 seconds and 2 minutes, reminding you to swallow. The idea is to develop an automatic swallowing reflex after several weeks' use.

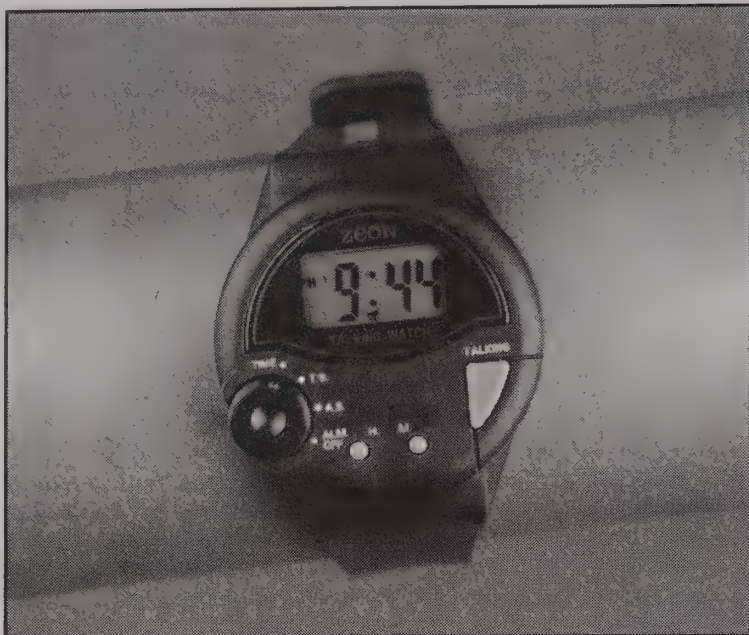
We asked Kevin Holmes to try one out for us. He found it useful at first, but a bit irritating for long-term use. People kept asking him what the noise was when he was on the phone. The BIME recommends its use with a speech therapist's supervision in all cases. £23 (ex VAT inc p&p). Tel: (0225) 823106.

The RNIB has a new range of products for the home, including a large easy to see wall clock, and a selection of **talking clocks and watches** (see *talking watch above right*). Prices from £5.50. They also have a new idea called **Bump-ons**. These are small, plastic, self-adhesive "bumps" which can be stuck on most surfaces and help visually impaired people identify things around the home. Available in a range of sizes, they start at £2.30 for a sheet of 72. Catalogue free from RNIB Customer Services, PO Box 173, Peterborough PE3 6WS, tel: (0345) 023153.

Do you have difficulty getting plugs out? Why not try the **Plugpull** by KB Design and Promotions (*below right*). Made of tough, wafer-thin plastic, it slides easily round a plug,

for a pack of three from DIY and electrical stores.

If you find it difficult to open doors, the **Brainstorm Safety Grip** could be for you. Made of soft and flexible mate-

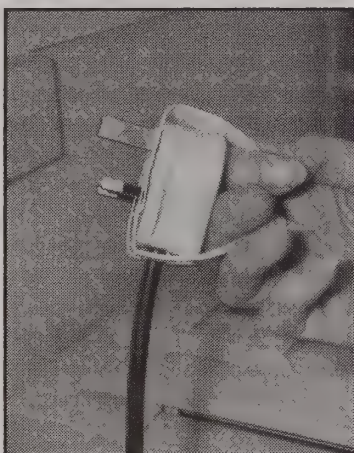


forming a handle. This is probably most useful if you have some control but not a lot of strength in your hands.

We asked Chris Davies to have a go for us. He said he would have found it a help, if only he could get the plugs in in the first place! £4.95 (inc p&p) for a pack of 10. Tel 081-770 1100.

The **Plugmate** from Maxview is a similar idea. They have chosen to put the handle round the plug from left to right instead of top to bottom. This could make it more difficult to push in but may be better for some people. £1.25

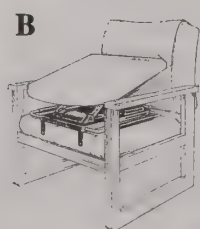
rial, it fits on to the edge of the door to prop it open and prevent slamming and sore fingers. You need no glue, nails or screws to attach it to doors. It is easily removed and repositioned in seconds. £4.23 for a pack of two (inc p&p). Tel: (0342) 312681.



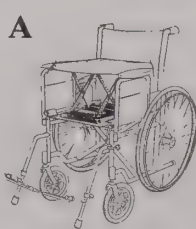
Finally, if you want to find more simple ideas like these, Age Concern's **Simple Solutions** mail order catalogue has over 600 handy products for the home and garden. Free from Fiona Deyes, Marketing Officer, Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

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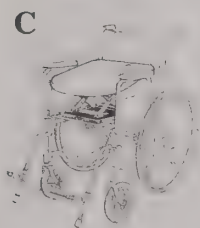
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The Telestik Portable Retriever reduces to 8" and extends to 34". It has an adhesive pad which sticks to products you wish to pick up. It also has a hook to pick up keys etc.

For further details and prices please tick ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

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Trade Enquiries Welcome

WHAT'S ON

Arts Connections, a residential dance course for people of all abilities. 10-14 August in Swindon. £35 for people with disabilities. For more details contact Thamesdown Dance Studio, Town Hall Studios, Regent Circus, Swindon SN1 1QF, tel: (0793) 610378.

Demonstration of Possum and Joncare Equipment. 17 August in Leicester. Free. Contact Christine Gale, The Disabled Living Centre, Medical Aid Department, 76 Clarendon Park Road, Leicester LE2 3AD, tel: (0533) 700747.

The Work of Banstead Mobility Centre. 2 September. Free. Contact Dr Barbara Simms, Head of Education and Research, Banstead Mobility Centre, Damson Way, Orchard Hill, Queen Mary's Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4NR, tel: 081-770 1151.

Basic Awareness and Sign Skills, a three-day course (one day a week beginning 2 September) at The Trinity Centre, London E1. £60. For details send an SAE to Breakthrough Deaf-Hearing Integration, The London Centre, The Hall, Peyton Place, Greenwich, London SE10 8RS, tel: 081-853 5661.

Pain and Disability - Can we Prevent Them? A conference in Oxford, 3-5 September. £235-£250. Contact The Secretary, Wessex Rehabilitation Association, Odstock Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 8BJ, tel: (0722) 336262 ext 4057.

Driving for Disabled People, a one day course. 7 September in Cardiff. £35. Contact Mrs C Ellis, Co-ordinator of Rehabilitation Services, Rookwood Hospital, Llandaff, Cardiff, tel: (0222) 566281 ext 3751. Closing date 7 August.

Gardening Event. 12 September at Holme Lacy College in Hereford. £1.50. More information from Herefordshire Growing Point, c/o Holme Lacy College, Holme Lacy, Hereford HR2 6LL.

Multidisciplinary Training Day on Prader-Willi Syndrome. 12 September in Bolton. £5 parents, £15 professionals. Contact Jackie Waters, Information Officer PWSA (UK), 5 Wollaton Road, Chaddesden, Derby DE2 4HX, tel: (0332) 668790.

Residential Course for Teaching Assistants run by the National Deaf Children's Society. 16-18 September in Sheffield. £141. Further details and booking forms are available from Stacey Hartshorn, Family Services Centre, 24 Wakefield Road, Rothwell Haigh, Leeds LS26 0SF, tel: (0532) 823458.

Interpersonal Relationships and Sexuality - Learning Difficulties, a three day course. 16-18 September in London. £150. Contact the course administrator, Family Planning Association, 27-35 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RJ, tel: 071-636 7866.

A How to Fundraise Day for disabled people and their organisations. 17 September in Bristol. £2.50. Contact Claire King, ADD, 23 Lower Keyford, Frome, Somerset BA11 4AP, tel: (0373) 473064.

Yorkshire Disability & Mobility Exhibition. 20 September at the Dome Leisure Park in Doncaster. Free. For further details tel: (0226) 386677.

Putting Ability First (a European perspective). A conference on employment training of disabled people in Europe. 25 September in Keighley. £20-£30. Details from Keith Bell, Keighley Disabled People's Council, Temple Row Centre, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD21 2AH, tel: (0535) 606700.



CARE HOME

ANN CHARLTON LODGE

Ann Charlton Lodge is Britain's first purpose-built residential home for both the long and short-term care of people with Multiple Sclerosis and related conditions of the central nervous system.

Set in landscaped gardens, close to Redcar seafront and town centre, the Lodge has been uniquely designed in close consultation with Ann Charlton, the founder, who has MS.

The home offers:

- * 24 hour care
- * Excellent food with an extensive menu
- * Private accommodation and specialised ensuite facilities
- * Personalised emergency staff call facility
- * Single level building with easy wheelchair access throughout
- * Communal lounges, conservatory, hall and gardens
- * Informal atmosphere - visitors are always welcome
- * The opportunity to meet new friends amongst residents and staff
- * A variety of social activities and escorted outings

For further details and brochure please contact: Mrs Jean Franklin, Care Manager, Ann Charlton Lodge, Edenhall Grove, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4PR. Telephone: (0642) 480660.

HELP!

Do you care about the environment and have some spare time? The **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers** is looking for people in the South East to do practical conservation work. Tel: 071-278 4293.

Vivienne Rae-Ellis is compiling a book of unpublished accounts of **reincarnation and near-death experiences**. If you have lived previous lives or have been resuscitated from the brink of death contact her at PO Box 5159, Bath, Avon.

INFO

The Disabled Graduates Careers Information Service can be contacted at the University of Reading, Bulmershe Court, Woodlands Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HY, tel: (0734) 318659.

Accessible Self-Catering Accommodation, lists over 140 places inspected to the Holiday Care Service Tourism For All Accessible Standard. 25p with an SAE from Holiday Care Service, 2 Old Bank Chambers, Station Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 9HW.

Small doses of medicine (below five ml) will now be given by liquid medicine measures (issued with the medicine) instead of the five ml spoon. The Department of Health is producing an explanatory leaflet. There will be posters in doctors surgeries and the doctor will demonstrate the liquid measure when it is issued.

Check Your Tax is a free advice leaflet for elderly people. Send an SAE to Chris Katic, Information Desk, Help the Aged, St James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE.

Two new courses with a disability angle are on offer in London. Both want disabled applicants and are open to people without a degree if they have relevant work experience. The Architectural Association (AA) School of Architecture is offering a one year day release postgraduate diploma in Environmental Access. The regis-

trar, AA School of Architecture, 34-36 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3ES, tel: 071-636 0974. City University is running a part-time postgraduate diploma in Disability Management in Work and Rehabilitation. Margaret Mul-lany, Postgraduate Programme, Rehabilitation Resource Centre, Department of Systems Science, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V OHB, tel: 071-477 8378.

The South Devon Community Skills Project assists people with severe physical or sensory disabilities to achieve their personal goals. The Spastics Society, SDCS Project, Teign House, Kingsteignton Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 4QD, tel: (0626) 335146.

The Positive Discounts Scheme offers retail discounts to people on benefits who are HIV positive. Positive Discounts, PO Box 2920, London W11 1XT.

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust gives grants to UK citizens for overseas study projects related to their job. Closing date 30 October. Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR.

MOVES

Susan Daniels is the first deaf director of the National Deaf Children's Society. Denise Evans is the Royal National Institute for the Blind's new broadcasting officer. Arthur Firkins is now honorary treasurer of The Spastics Society. Merton in London has Slim Flegg as its first disabled mayor.

FOR SALE

AUTOMATIC MAESTRO CLUB-MAN, powered steering. Feb 1991, blue, one owner. £5,500 ono. Tel: (0272) 743646 (evenings).

MANGAR GENIE elevating wheelchair, hardly used. Cost £1,620. Includes bat-tery charger. £900. Tel: (0703) 771780.

GIMSON STAIRGLIDER STAIR-LIFT, swivel seat, 2 call stations. Folds flat, one month in use. £800. Tel: 081-669 2981.

BUNGALOW WITH GRANNY FLAT adapted for disabled person. Hal-ifax, West Yorkshire. Please tel: (0484) 714767.

VOLKSWAGEN LT28 LAREDO motorcaravan, 1991 H registration. Blue. 1,200 miles. Sleeps 2/3. Toilet and shower compartment, hot water, fridge, cooker, heater, awning. Interbility wheelchair lift on side. £19,000. Tel: 021-308 4233 (Sutton Coldfield).

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR Carter Cruiser with charger. Hardly used, in excellent condition. £1,000 ono. Tel: 081-979 9349.

FORD ESCORT 1,600L automatic. Carchair-converted, driver side, together with car chair electric wheelchair plus new batteries. Hand control adaptations with power controlled assisted hand throttle. Power steering, black, E reg, 1,300 miles. 1 careful owner, immaculate condition. £9,500. Tel: (0992) 711316.

MANGAR BOOSTER unused. Free demo and first service from Mangar Aids. £585 or offers. Tel: (0203) 694353.

Lightweight wheelchairs for sale. New folding wheelchair with quick release axles from £633. New rigid chairs from £1,195. **QUICKIE** and **ACTION TECHNOLOGY** available. Also ex-demonstration and second hand wheelchairs. Further information contact EPC (0252) 547939 or our new office in Coventry (0203) 422327.

CENTRAL & MOBILITY

SPECIALISTS IN QUALITY USED ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS, SCOOTERS AND BATRICARS

BOUGHT AND SOLD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

FULLY GUARANTEED

For a fast and efficient service contact Mr Evans on 021-366 6796 any time. Free puncture proofing on all machines.

NIAGARA MASSAGE PADS, hand units. Adjustamatic massage beds, reclining massage chairs, nearly new, half prices, reconditioned, year warranty, guaranteed first class goods. Part exchanges, repairs, COD, Access, Visa accepted. Tel: (0460) 61157.

RECONDITIONED STAIRLIFTS Stannah/Minivator, installed and guaranteed. Unwanted lifts purchased for cash. **DOLPHIN LIFTS 081 861 2370.**

FOR SALE - ex demonstration model used for exhibitions only - not yet registered - full manufacturers warranties will apply. Devon Viking - based on Volkswagen T.3 Transporter Hi-roof Kombi with 2 sliding doors - nearside door extended into roof to give 5 ft entrance - seating for 10, or 6 seats and 2 wheelchairs. Underfloor ramp. £11,750 excluding Car Tax and V.A.T. if applicable. **Contact Sales on 0392-211611.**

GBL SERVICES

MANUAL LIGHT WEIGHT WHEELCHAIRS

(New & Secondhand [All Types])

- Bought and Sold
- Repairs, Services and Alterations
- Parts Supplied ... Fitting Available
- Hiring Service Available

Advice and Alternative Enquiries Welcome **Contact: Jamie:**

Unit E3 & E4, Shield Business Centre, Shield Drive, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9EX

Tel: 081-569 8955

1988 CARCHAIR electric wheelchair with kerb climber and complete system for putting wheelchair into front passen-ger seat of car. £1,000. Tel: (0707) 56730.

CARCHAIR SYSTEM to fit Ford Escort or similar car, passenger side. Nearly new. £1,000 ono. Tel: (0703) 776547.

ELECTRIC UPHOLSTERED ARM-CHAIR with standing to reclining posi-tions. 1991 model in dralon. 6 months use - as new. £560. Tel: (0272) 736909.

FIAT FIORINO CONVERSION. 1988 F reg diesel 5 speed. 1 wheelchair space plus 4 seats, electric winch ramps and clamps, luxury interior, sunroof, tinted windows. £5,950. Tel: (0803) 812260 (day) (0803) 812291 (evenings) (Devon).

ALVEMA SERIES 8 WHEELCHAIR, VGC. £250 ono. Tel: (0902) 374534.

RENAULT EXTRA CONVERSION G reg. For transportation of a wheelchair passenger. Red, 28 miles. Immaculate condition. £6,500 ovno. Tel: (0533) 776119.

KEEPABLE COUNTRY AUTOMATIE lifting and reclining arm-chair. Rose pink dralon. Almost new, still under guarantee. Cost £1,100, will accept £700. Tel: (0322) 293119 or 2212069.

JONCARE HI-LO POWERED CHAIR, virtually as new condition. Bright yellow. Cost £3,850. Urgent sale at only £1,950 ono. Tel: 051- 549 2191.

EXCORT 1,600 and CARCHAIR, C reg automatic. 24,000 miles. Power assisted steering, servo brakes, electric windows. Fitted 20 month old powered carchair for driver. £6,500. Tel: (0942) 870853.

1988 Nippy Tricycle, blue, 18,000 miles. Taxed MOT. Windscreen, roof, side panels. Propel your wheelchair up the Nippy's ramp, secure, start the engine, freedom can be yours. £1,500. **Tel: RC Hayes (Leicester) Ltd (0455) 213075.**

POWERCHAIRS

(MOBILITY CONSULTANTS)

Nearly new, hardly used

Electric Wheelchairs, Scooters, Batricars.

All models wanted and for sale.

The right one to suit your individual problem.

Free Advice, Delivery, Collection.

All Areas Covered.

Ring Mr Gibbons 021-357 4965.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS WANTED Also a large selection of quality fully guaranteed vehicles for sale. Please contact Mr Adams. Telephone: 081-953 1238.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS WANTED. TOP PRICES PAID. NEARLY NEW AND HARDLY USED FOR SALE FROM HALF PRICE. FREE COLLECTIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND ADVICE - ALL AREAS COVERED. **TEL: NORTH 061 237 5551 SOUTH 081 343 3535**

Disability Now is not responsible for the claims made in advertisements it prints. Readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES Bought and sold. Part exchange welcome. Please contact Mr Adams. Telephone: 081-953 1238.

Save loads of money by ordering and picking up your adapted Chrysler voyager van in America. Fully accessible accommodation and airport pick up arranged. For information pack write, phone, fax Beverley Nameche, Vanfare USA, 11 School Street, Essex, MA 01929, USA. Tel: 0101 508 788 6228. Fax: 0101 508 768 3601.

CHAIRMAN ESCORT, F reg. 9,600 miles. As new. £7,000. Tel: (0264) 76342.

POIRIER SUPREME ROLLER wheelchair. Top of Poirier range, special features, several seating positions, quick wheel release, folds flat. Paid £1,200 will accept £700 ono. Used two weeks. Tel: 071-372 3355.

POIRIER POSITILEC August '91. Fully reclining, excellent condition. Cost £4,000. Accept £3,000. Tel: (0635) 268518.

BATRICAR, CHARGER, HOOD. £450. Good condition. Tel: (0644) 7248.

FIAT FIORINO VAN E reg. Driver, 2 passengers and 1 person in a wheelchair. Rear entry, side windows, sunroof, radio cassette, cooling fan. MOT July '93. Cheap to run. £1,800. Tel: (0780) 740418.

FIAT FIORINO VAN with rear win-dows. E reg, 39,000 miles. Bench seat in rear, was used for wheelchair passenger. £2,300. ono. Tel: (0642) 786327.

ORTHOKINETICS PONY II model 4313. Suit child 8 years up to 5 ft tall. Portable electric scooter. Automatic brak-ing, speed control, chain drive, trunk supports, abduction pads, shoulder har-ness. £850 ono. Tel: (0923) 253124.

WANTED

TRAINED TELEPHONIST (now housebound) requires telephone answer-ing/basic copy typing work from home. No selling. N.W. Leicestershire. Tel: (0530) 222167 (Eileen).

ARJO MECHANAIDS or Mangar portable bath lift. Urgent. Tel: (0300) 341582.

BATH HOIST/LIFT, Mechanaid or similar. Tel: (0763) 245298.

HOME SWAPS

COUNCIL EXCHANGE. We have a 2 bed bungalow adapted for wheelchair in Yorkshire near Halifax and Huddersfield. We need 2 or 3 bed bungalow in the Blackpool area. Only exchange with wheelchair user. Tel: (0484) 710867.

To place a classified lineage advertisement please use the form on page 24.

PUBLICATIONS

NEW WRITER? Dear Sir, the magazine written by its readers, publishes short features by UNKNOWNNS. CASH AWARDS. For sample issue send A4 s.a.e. and £1 to 54, Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5LJ.

SERVICES

AUTOMATIC & DISABLED SCHOOL OF MOTORING

Professional, patient, full hour's tuition. Qualified ADI. Competitive rates. Disabled assessment tests carried out.

Phone (Hatfield) 0707 275954.

HAIR LOSS

The established medical lotion being used worldwide to treat thinning hair and hair loss is available for home treatment privately from Dr W Mackay, PO Box 458, Glasgow G42 8QJ. For complete information call or write to Dr Mackay. Telephone 041 423 1037. 10am-5pm Mon-Fri. Worldwide Distribution.

HIGH INCOME, HOME BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY - IDEAL FOR THE DISABLED! Show the world what you're really capable of. Contact B Jaycocks, 9 Pipers Close, Hove BN3 8FG.

MAUBRI

FASHIONS

BESPOKE TAILORING FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

We present direct to you, our new, exclusive **FULLY FITTED WHEELCHAIR KAGOULE**

- * Approved & Purchased by U.K. Health Authorities
- * Fully Waterproof Heavy Construction Fabric
- * Standard and Quilted versions available
- * Fully integral Hood
- * Zip-up handy carrying case
- * Choice of colours: Blue, Red or Green (predominant colour)

ALL FOR ONLY -

£19.99 Standard or £29.99 Quilted, inclusive - Postage Paid.

We also have a full range of clothing & accessories for the differently abled.

Simply fill in the slip below for a free brochure or send with cheque/PO to: MAUBRI FASHIONS, UNIT 13B, SPRINGFIELD COMMERCIAL CENTRE, BAGLEY LANE, FARSLEY, LEEDS LS28 5LY. Allow 10 days for delivery - Telephone (0532) 553274.

Please supply Standard Kagoules, in (colour)

Please supply Quilted Kagoules, in (colour)

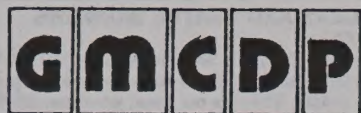
Please supply a free brochure ☐

To: Name

Address

DNB/92

If you are not completely satisfied with the merchandise return within 28 days for a full refund.



READVERTISEMENT

The Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People is setting up a new project supporting disabled people as volunteers. We are recruiting for

A DEVELOPMENT WORKER

with outreach/community work skills and some experience of project development: this is an exciting opportunity to develop your skills in direct contact with disabled people and their organisations.

This post is at NJC Scale 6, £13,563 pa, 25 hours per week, £9,688 pro rata.

Please send for information, stating whether braille or large print is required, to GMCDP Volunteers Project, Unit 35, Cariocca Enterprises, Ardwick, Manchester M12 4AH.

Closing date for applications is 21st August.

ONLY DISABLED PEOPLE NEED APPLY.

BANK OF ENGLAND

International Economists

The Bank of England is seeking a small number of experienced economists to work in its International Divisions on policy-related issues including:

- economic and financial developments in the OECD area;
- European monetary integration;
- the transition of countries in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to market economies;
- adjustment policies in heavily indebted LDCs.

Successful candidates will have at least a good first degree in economics and several years of relevant work experience; for some positions, extensive experience in applied international financial or macro economics will be required. Successful candidates will also be able to demonstrate strong analytical and communication skills. Fluency in a language other than English (especially French, German, Japanese or Russian) would be advantageous.

Initial appointments will normally be on the basis of 2-3 year contracts with the possibility of subsequent permanent employment. Salary will be negotiable according to experience; fringe benefits are also available.

For an application form please telephone Sarah Kitt on 071-601 4518/4706 or write to her at the address below.

Personnel Division HO-5
Bank of England
Threadneedle Street
London
EC2R 8AH



The Bank of England is an
Equal Opportunities Employer

FIND-A-FRIENDS

For Find A Friend ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN from Prague, seeks a lady penfriend with one or both legs off, to exchange letters with a possibility of mutual visits. Age 35-45. Box No.453.

DISABLED FEMALE, 20, seeks an able-bodied British, good looking male for friendship and possible romance. Non-smoker (21-25 only). Genuine replies only. Box No.454.

SINCERE DIVORCEE, late 30s, lives in Barnsley, has MS, would like someone living in the Yorkshire area for friendship and correspondence. Box No.456.

FELLOW-FIGHTER for human rights for disabled needed. Someone able to deal with papers and climb stairs, to help with work accumulated during treatment at Moorfields. I'm in London NW3, rather housebound, 40 years older than I feel, female, good company. Box No.457.



YOUNG 50-YEAR-OLD widower. 6ft 2in. Dark hair, green eyes. Good sense of humour. Have MS, walk a little, have car. Would like to meet lady able-bodied or disabled for friendship and possible romance in the SE Kent area. Box No. 458.

LADY ABLE-BODIED, 55-years-old. Sense of humour, honest and caring. Likes countryside and gardening. Caring for disabled son (25). Wishes to meet disabled widower, non-smoker for sincere friendship. Must have large home and gardens, no family and be financially secure. Name, address and phone number and photo if possible. Box No.459.

MALE WITH SPINAL DISEASE (25-35) would like to meet a similar guy. I am well-adjusted and independent but lonely. Able-bodied or disabled friend for long-term friendship. Dorset or Somerset. I need a friend. Details, photo and phone number please. Box No.460.

DISABLED LADY, late 50s, mobile with spinal arthritis. From Yorkshire, many interests. Would like to meet kind considerate male for friendship. Please write with details and photo. Will answer all replies. Box No.461.

DISABLED MAN, 24, would like to hear from lady of similar age in Norfolk/Suffolk. Should be intelligent, witty, have a good sarcastic sense of humour and of course be modest. All of the qualities I possess! Preferably a non-smoker. Box No.462.

DISABLED WOMAN would like to write to people of any age, sex, race etc from all over the world. Particularly interested in hearing from people from France or with an interest in France, its language, culture etc. Box No.463.

PROFESSIONAL MALE, 30, paraplegic due to accident. Completely independent with own house. Would like to meet able-bodied or para female who enjoys travelling, eating out and living life to the full. Disability is not a handicap! Box No.464.

To reply to a Find-A-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2.



For people with disabilities and caring, understanding able bodied persons.
Access to relationships.
Be assertive and join Handidate.
All enquiries to: HANDIDATE
The Wellington Centre
52 Chevallier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB
Telephone: (0473) 226950

Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard Users

ADMINISTRATOR



Efficient organiser to manage office and to take an active role in this small but lively charity campaigning for better transport facilities for people with disabilities.

Tactful telephone manner, computer, book-keeping and minute taking skills are essential requirements.

Salary NJC Scale 4: £12,426 - £13,656 inc LW (pay award pending)
25 days holidays. Non-contributory pension. 35hr wk.

APPLICATIONS FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND ETHNIC MINORITY CANDIDATES POSITIVELY WELCOMED.

Further details, and application forms from: Dave Wetzel, Director, DaRT, 25 Leighton Road, London NW5 2QD. Telephone: 071-482 2325.

Closing date: Monday 31 August 1992

This post is funded by the London Borough Grants Committee.

DISABILITY ACCESS OFFICER (Part-time)

£4,758 - £7,242 p.a., 18½ hours per week

Promoting better access to buildings for people with disabilities is an important aspect of the Council's commitment to a wide-ranging equal opportunities policy.

Based in the Planning and Development Department, you will provide advice in the field of access provision to the Council, other public bodies and the owners of private buildings to which the public have access.

The person appointed will be able to understand design drawings and construction techniques and show an approach that is enthusiastic yet realistic. Above all, you will possess a real empathy with people with disabilities and a thorough understanding of their specific needs.

In addition to standard conditions of service the Council offers a casual user car allowance or contract hire car.

Occasional work outside of normal working hours will be required.

If you would like a job which combines the chance to really help people and the community with the flexibility of part-time hours, please apply now by contacting the Personnel Section, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, Town Hall, Nuneaton, CV11 5AA. Telephone: (0203) 376212 (24 hour answering service).

Closing date: 14th August, 1992.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.

Nuneaton
&
Bedworth



RICA

c £19,500 + benefits

Project Leader

c three year contract

The Research Institute for Consumer Affairs is an independent charity, associated with Consumers' Association, publishers of Which?

The Department of Health have commissioned RICA to evaluate the success of the National Disability Information Project. The project has been set up to pilot ways of improving the quality and reach of information for disabled people. It is based on twelve local federations of information-providers and is being overseen by the Policy Studies Institute. RICA's evaluation will look at all aspects of the project to draw conclusions about how information might best be provided for disabled people in the future.

The Project Leader will have day to day responsibility for the project and will carry out much of the work - interviewing those involved, observing meetings and events and commissioning research where necessary.

You will need to be perceptive, analytical, confident and well organised, and have the ability to draw verifiable conclusions from a mass of data.

We are particularly looking for:

- a grounding in basic research methods
- ability to work to deadlines
- ability to take initiative and work independently
- excellent written and oral communication skills
- willingness to travel and stay away from home

Advantages would be

- experience of evaluation or research projects using qualitative methods
- knowledge of information issues and disability

Applications particularly welcome from people with disabilities

Please send a full CV to Emma McCarthy at RICA 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S GROUP OF SERVICES

COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT ASSISTANT COMMITTEE SECRETARY/ COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Scale 3-6 £10,578 - £15,546 (Pay Award Pending)

We have a vacancy for an Assistant Committee Secretary. This is a trainee post. Some office work experience would be an advantage, but we are looking for someone with good spoken and written English and organisational ability. The work involves attending evening meetings of Council Committees, helping to prepare agendas, reports and minutes, and keeping office records, including using a computer. There is regular contact with Council members, officers from all Council departments and members of the community.

We have a positive approach to training and a comprehensive career development scheme which provides for rapid promotion for competent staff. There is a 35 hour week with flexitime, and overtime or time off for evening meetings. Appointment is likely to be at the bottom of the scale.

Applications are particularly welcomed from people from black and minority ethnic communities, people with disabilities and women, who are under-represented in this section of the workforce.

All applicants with a disability will be interviewed in advance of other candidates if they meet the essential criteria for this post.

For an application form and further particulars, please telephone 081-862 2978 (24 hour answerphone) or write to the Staffing Section, Civic Centre, High Road, London N22 4LE, quoting reference: CS/439.

Closing date: 21st August 1992.

HARINGEY COUNCIL

"Haringey is working towards becoming
an equal opportunities employer"

Jobs

PROJECT OFFICER

The National Wheelchair Housing Associations Group

NATWHAG's aim is to promote the housing needs of wheelchair users and others with physical disabilities within the Housing Association Movement.

The Group now wishes to appoint its first paid officer, whose tasks will include:

- research and project work
- preparing policy papers
- keeping abreast of relevant legislation and national issues
- servicing Group meetings

Applicants must be computer literate and should be familiar with the work of Housing Associations.

Salary: £18,000 - £20,000 pa inclusive of London weighting.

Holidays: 25 days per annum.

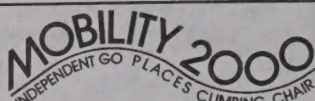
The job will be based at Finsbury Park, but other locations in London could be made available to suit individual needs. The appointment will be for an initial fixed two year period. Applications from suitable candidates with disabilities are welcomed.

Closing Date: 30 September 1992

For further information and an application form, please contact:

Clare Stogden, John Grooms Housing Association,
10 Gloucester Drive, Finsbury Park, London N4 2LP
Telephone: 081 800 9245

AGENTS WANTED



Mobility 2000 Climbing Wheelchair Sales or Service Agents required for Scotland, South West, South East, other areas possible. Would suit ex OTs, Nurses or experienced medical aid sales person. Reply to John Chamberlain, Mobility 2000 (Telford) Ltd, Telford Industrial Centre, Stafford Park 4, Telford TF3 3BA. Tel: 0952 290180.

DISABLEMENT ASSOCIATION IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

require a disabled person to be their

SELF-ADVOCACY CO-ORDINATOR

to work with young people with disabilities in the London Borough of Barnet, empowering them to become more independent, assertive and informed. The postholder will be responsible for setting up and facilitating self-advocacy with groups of young people with physical disabilities and groups with learning difficulties. Also to promote and encourage the establishment of People First in Barnet.

Starting in October '92, initially a one year project which we hope will be extended.

Salary: £9,166 initially for 22 hours, there may be a possibility of full-time.

Closing date: 12th August

Application forms and further details: DABB, 4 Oakleigh Gardens, Whetstone, London N20 9AB. Tel: 081 446 6935.

NURSERY OFFICERS AND CENTRE WORKERS

DG3 £10,422 - £11,652

Manchester City Council's Children's Services require:-

Ref CSB167 Nursery Officers, 2 posts, 39 hours per week. Scout Drive Day Nursery.
Ref CSB148 Nursery Officer, 23 hours per week, job-share. Barnstaple Day Nursery
Ref CSB135 Nursery Officer, 19.5 hours per week. Rutland Day Nursery
Ref CSB214 Nursery Officer, 39 hours per week. Slade Lane Day Nursery
Ref CSB220 Centre Workers, 2 posts, 39 hours per week. St Peter's Children's Centre
Ref CSB213 Centre Workers, 3 posts, 39 hours per week. Burnage Children's Centre

SESSIONAL STAFF

25 hours per week. 3 Posts
DG2 £9,093 - £10,215 Ref CSB211
Moss Side Children's Centre

PLAY WORKER

Temporary, 3 hours per week (Monday and Thursday 3.30-5.00 pm)
£7 per hour qualified, £5 per hour unqualified Ref CSB207
Ravensbury Junior School

PLAY WORKER

Temporary, 4 hours per week
£7 per hour qualified, £5 per hour unqualified Ref CSB224
Manchester University Settlement

We at the Children's Services are very proud of our track record. We see progress as a continuous aspect of our work. We are therefore committed to ensuring that all our children have the best possible childcare, we see this to include ensuring that our staff reflect the multi-racial community that Manchester is so enriched with. At the moment Black people are very much under-represented. We would therefore like to particularly encourage applications from Black people.

What Manchester City Council can offer you

- * flexible working hours
- * probably the best workplace childcare scheme in the country
- * job share
- * good maternity, paternity and special leave provisions
- * casual car user allowance
- * generous leave entitlement
- * a scheme of employment equipment and adaptations for disabled employees
- * a genuine commitment to equal opportunities in all areas of employment and service delivery.

Application forms and further details are available from the Chief Education Officer, Children's Services Branch, Education Offices, Crown Square, Manchester M60 3BB. Tel. 061 234 7035. Minicom users only 061 234 7120. Closing date 17th August 1992.

MANCHESTER City Council

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and we positively welcome applications from women and men, regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, disability, age up to 65, sexuality or responsibilities for dependants.

BBC Postgraduate Bursary NORTH in Journalism for People with Disabilities

Working in conjunction with the Lancashire Polytechnic Centre for Journalism, BBC North is offering a single bursary to people with disabilities who gain a place on the one year Postgraduate Diploma in Radio and Television Journalism at the Centre.

The bursary is aimed at attracting fresh talent from those people with disabilities who wish to make a future career in journalism. These applications are now being considered for this course year's course which starts in September 1992.

If you wish to be considered, please write for an application form, returnable by Monday 17th August quoting ref. PBJD to Marketing Services, Lancashire Polytechnic, Preston, Lancashire PR1 2TQ.

Applicants who do not hold a degree will be considered if they have relevant career backgrounds or are mature students.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY



LANCASHIRE
POLYTECHNIC

We are equal to the task Are you?



Our Equal Opportunities Policy Statement for Employment is clear in its intent.

We aim to recruit the best person for the job, regardless of an applicant's sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, creed, religion, colour, ethnic or national origin.

However, we are too well aware that people with disabilities are under-represented in our workforce and we are now trying hard to enable equality of access and opportunity to employment and services for people with disabilities across our Council.

If you have a disability and are interested in receiving our Weekly Jobs Vacancy List for the next six months, please detach and return the completed coupon to

Mike Brown, Training & Equal Opportunities Section, Room 315, Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham TW1 3BZ.



LONDON BOROUGH OF
RICHMOND UPON THAMES

an equal opportunities employer

Please send me your weekly Jobs Vacancy List

Name _____

Address _____

DN

MANAGEMENT OFFICER

SERVICES TO PHYSICALLY DISABLED PEOPLE

£20,523 - £22,248

(PAY AWARD PENDING)

This post carries responsibility for the management of the Borough's Sensory Impairment Team and specialist community-based social work resources, as well as for a day resource centre and domiciliary personal care services.

An Independent Living Advisory and Support Scheme is being established through Joint Finance, and the Management Officer will assume responsibility for helping establish and develop this. Consequently, the postholder will be at the heart of implementing Community Care Strategy.

As Manager, you will promote and support initiatives aimed at working in partnership with service users and statutory and independent agencies.

You will also have key responsibilities for ensuring that financial and staff resources are deployed in the most effective way, and will contribute directly to service planning and development within Specialist and Disabilities Division.

You will need CQSW plus extensive experience of working with physically disabled people and/or for people with sensory impairments in the community. Sound management and supervisory experience should be combined with a commitment to the empowerment of disabled people as service users.

As mobility around the Borough is essential, you must have access to a car, for which an appropriate allowance is payable. **Ref: 1/4202.**

Barnet is committed to equality. We target our services for the benefit of the whole community and welcome job applications from all those with the appropriate skills, experience and abilities. Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities.

Closing date: 21 August 1992.

An application form, job description and employee specification are available from the Personnel Department, Community Services, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, London N20 0EJ. Tel: 081-446 6857 (24 hour answer service) or 081-446 8511 ext. 4276.

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

Disability
Information and
Advice about
Resources in
Yeovil & District

Require a Co-ordinator
NJC Scale 5/6 £11,961 - £15,570 (Pay award pending)

The successful candidate will be responsible for developing and co-ordinating this information service in South Somerset.

We are looking for someone with proven ability to negotiate at a senior level in both the statutory and independent sectors.

A keen awareness of disability and the experience to effectively promote the needs of people with a range of disabilities is essential.

Keyboard, computer, telephone skills and own transport are necessary.

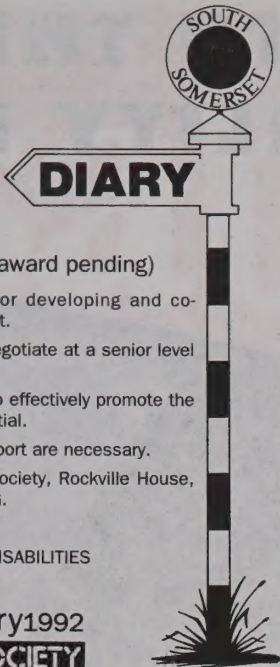
Please send CV to:- Mr N.J. Clarke, The Spastics Society, Rockville House, Rockville Park, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon PL9 7DG.

Closing date: Friday 28th August 1992

WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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THE SPASTICS SOCIETY
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL Palsy
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**Deadlines for Septem-
ber issue: booking by
14 August, camera
ready artwork/copy by
18 August.**

Secretary/Assistant
Arts and Disability

The Arts and Disability Unit deals with a variety of strategic initiatives on employment, training, physical access and the cultural framework for disability arts.

We are looking for an experienced and capable secretary/assistant who will be responsible for secretarial and administrative support to the Head of Arts and Disability. Excellent word processing, minuting, prioritising and organisational skills are essential. Applicants must also have an understanding of equal opportunities issues and be committed to the work of the Unit.

Salary is on a scale of £11,510 pa rising to £14,489 pa (including current secretarial allowance). Annual leave 22 days per annum. Pension scheme.

For further details and an application form, please contact the Personnel Department, Arts Council, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ. Alternatively, telephone 071-973 6448. (Details are also available on tape.) Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 14th August 1992.

We are pleased to inform you that our building is accessible by wheelchair. The Arts Council has an Equal Opportunities recruitment policy. It warmly welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



PLANNING DEPARTMENT
AREA PLANNING DIVISION
ACCESS OFFICER
P01 £17,040-£18,375
(Pay Review Pending)

Buildings and public places can present particular difficulties to those who are disabled. The City Council wants to appoint somebody with practical experience of promoting and responding to the access needs of disabled people, in order to help minimise those difficulties.

The post is based within a team in the City Planning Department, responsible for a range of strategy development and implementation tasks. The team works closely with planning area teams, the Policy and Information Division, and with other Council Departments.

The postholder will be responsible for co-ordinating and developing the departmental response to the access needs of disabled people, particularly through the City's existing Access Programme and Corporate Working Group in which the postholder is expected to play a leading role.

Specific duties of the post include consulting with organisations of disabled people; liaising with other departments within the authority on access issues, advising on planning applications and helping to develop and administer an access grants scheme.

Applicants must have practical experience of disability and a demonstrable commitment to equal opportunities. This newly created post is a key appointment, applicants must therefore possess an advanced level of communication and organisational skills, as well as the necessary technical skills to appraise the accessibility of buildings.

This post attracts:

- an excellent pension scheme;
- flexi-time working arrangements;
- progressive training and experience opportunities;
- a generous relocation package.

For an informal discussion about the post, please ring Geoff Jackson on (051) 225-5601 or Andy Green on (051) 225-5613.

This post is reserved for filling by a disabled person.

An application form and information pack are available from:

The City Planning Department, Wilberforce House, 25, The Strand, Liverpool L2 7QA. Telephone: (051) 225-5626 (24 hour answering service is available on (051) 225-5675).

The closing date is 21st August 1992.

This post is funded through the Urban Programme, and is therefore initially available on a fixed 3 year contract.

The City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of the applicant's race, sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, disability, or employment status.



**THE CITY
OF LIVERPOOL**



**CROSSWORD
ANSWERS**

ACROSS: 1. Discouraging
7. Leaven 9. Piles 10. Lot
11. Tall tales 15. Tit 16.
Plan 17. Roster 19. Don
20. Rustic 24. Ash
26. Throughout 28. Yam
29. Yeast 30. Grey
DOWN: 1. Delft 2. Stallion
3. Ovett 4. Ample 5. Isle
6. Gascony 8. Volts
12. Atrophy 13. Averages
14. Spit 18. Rush 21. Shot
22. Inter 23. Dome
25. Envy 27. Ray

**NEWS QUIZ
ANSWERS**

1. Denmark 2. Labour
3. Methodist 4. The
Gettysburg address
5. President Mitterrand
6. Guy Forget 7. Because of
the Boipatong massacre
8. By setting up a tribunal
dealing with parental appeals
9. Norway 10. Morris
Cerullo

Merton Phab (Physically Disabled Able-Bodied) needs a part time Development Worker with relevant experience and awareness. 14 hours per week, eight month contract. Salary £5,390. We are an Equal Opportunities employer and welcome applications from disabled people. For an application form, call: 081-543-7392. Closing date: 7 August.

SOUTH LONDON DIAL-A-RIDE LIMITED

BOOKINGS CO-ORDINATORS £12,500 - £13,600 -
REC5/92 - PAY AWARD PENDING

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS £11,000 - £12,500 -
REC2/3/92 - PAY AWARD PENDING

Dial-a-Ride is an organisation providing transport for people with disabilities who cannot reasonably use other forms of public transport.

BOOKINGS CO-ORDINATOR

We require staff in the transport operations section to deal with bookings schedules, input onto and to assist with housekeeping of our computer system.

Candidates must be numerate, literate with good communication skills, and a helpful telephone manner. They must be well organised and self motivating. A good knowledge of the South and South West London areas together with keyboard skills is desirable. Candidates will be required to work shifts over a 37.5 hour week.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

We require staff to join a multi-disciplinary team. Their role will be to assist in the areas of transport operations, Personnel, Payroll, Finance and administrative matters.

Candidates must be numerate, literate and type using a word processor to 40 wpm, well organised, efficient, and have a helpful telephone manner. Candidates will be required to work a 36 hour week.

All candidates should have an awareness of the transport difficulties for people with disabilities.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourage applications from people with disabilities.

Further details and an application form from South London Dial-a-Ride Ltd., 45 Weir Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8UG. No CVs. Closing date for applications 9.00am Monday 17th August 1992.



Disability Now

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newspaper for people
with all kinds
of disabilities*

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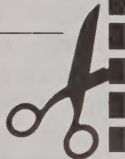
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The Fiat Tipo's doors open to a wider degree than any other car in its class. 80 degrees to be precise. They make it easier to get in and out.

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Please return to: Fiat Information Service, P.O. Box 1094, Slough, Berkshire SL1 6DH.

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